

The Adelaide Parklands National Heritage Nomination Place ID 105758 Supporting Comments

Described Area: The nominator has identified the boundaries of the nomination as the centrelines of the surrounding roads. Historically the exterior boundaries of the Adelaide Parklands are the boundaries of the Adelaide City Council. These boundaries are generally the Adelaide edge of the surrounding road reserve not the centreline. Interior boundaries are also considered to be the adjacent road reserve.

The Register of the National Estate identifies approximately seventy sites within the City of Adelaide that are adjacent to the Adelaide Parklands. Thirty of these are in North Adelaide and 11 surround Victoria Square. Both North Adelaide (RNE 6434) and Victoria Square (RNE 6435) are listed as conservation areas. While considering boundaries for the National Heritage listing thought might be given to including some adjacent Parkland frontage and/or the surrounding road reserves. Development on these properties can impact on the aesthetics and use of the Adelaide Parklands.

National and International Significance

Unique in the World: The Adelaide Park Lands are Adelaide's defining feature and are essentially unique among world cities. Maitland SA pop.1100 is the largest Australian locality apart from Adelaide to have retained a surrounding belt of parkland. Internationally, Krakow Poland is the only city identified which has a complete park belt, however the "Planty" as it is called only comprises 52 acres or 2.5% of the size of the Adelaide Park Lands. (Further information see World Heritage paper page 20)

Krakow references:

<http://www.krakow-info.com/planty.htm>

http://www.krakow.pl/en/our_city/?id=a_zlotup

One of Australia's oldest parks: Apart from Sydney's Hyde Park (which is still being assessed) the Adelaide Parklands appear to be Australia's oldest public park. The age of the Adelaide Parklands has significance at the international level. (WH paper pages 15-17).

Australia's largest inner city park: please refer to the attached table of Australian Urban Parks. The Adelaide Parklands are not only Australia's largest inner city park they are more than twice the size of Perth's Kings Park and double the area of Sydney's Centennial, Moore and Queen's Parks combined. The fact that this huge area of priceless open space has been preserved for 168 years demonstrates its significance to the community. All land alienated since 1837 remains in government control. For information regarding calculation of the current size refer to the WH paper page 18.

Australia's most accessible park: With a total park perimeter of more than 30 kilometres and their location surrounding the Adelaide CBD the Adelaide Parklands are within walking distance or just a few minutes drive for most residents of the metropolitan area. (WH paper page 18)

The Adelaide Plan and the History of Town Planning: This was discussed in the World Heritage paper pages 13 and 14, however two noteworthy items are added here.

Of international significance Adelaide's linkage to Ebenezer Howard and the Garden City movement has been strengthened by the discovery that the population of his proposed Garden City is also tied to Adelaide.

Previous authors have noted Adelaide as the source of Howard's inspiration for his reservation of open space surrounding his Garden Cities. In his famous book "Garden Cities of Tomorrow" page 140 Howard also wrote: "Garden City has, we will suppose, grown, until it has reached a population of 32,000. How shall it grow?" and again on page 142 he writes, "Its population has reached 32,000. How will it grow?"

To be concise (for this submission) Howard was specific. He did not pick a round number like 30,000 or 35,000 for his population he picked 32,000. According to published figures 32,000 is the approximate population of South Adelaide in 1897, bearing in mind the need to subtract the North Adelaide wards from the census totals.

Population references:

1. South Australia Census of 1901 Summary Tables
SA Parliamentary Paper 1901 #74 (Note contains 1891 figures)
2. City of Adelaide Yearbooks 1897-1898
3. Adelaide & Vicinity by E Pascoe 1901 page 617 Appendix B Estimated Population of the Province of South Australia and of the City of Adelaide (Note: Contains same figures as ACC yearbooks but is in a concise table and easy to present for this paper)

The second item of interest relates to the design of Canberra. Quoting from the reference below " One of the most significant influences on the design of the city of Canberra was the garden city movement which began in England during the late nineteenth century." As previously noted in the WH paper page 14 and above Ebenezer Howard, the founder of the garden city movement was influenced by Adelaide. Consequently Adelaide via Ebenezer Howard and the garden city movement influenced Canberra's design.

Reference:

1. Undiscovered Canberra by Allan J Mortlock and Bernice Anderson 1978 page 11.

**The Adelaide Parklands
Listings on the Register of the National Estate**

The Adelaide Parklands contain 61 RNE listings. Of these 52 are registered and 9 listings are indicative or have been identified by state authorities. The listings are:

1. Adelaide Bridge	ID 15163	
2. Adelaide Goal	ID 6428	
3. Adelaide High School	ID 16566	Indicative Place
4. Adelaide Oval Scoreboard	ID 14450	
5. Adelaide Oval and Surrounds	ID 19236	
6. Adelaide Railway Station	ID 14550	
7. Administration Building and Bays 1-6 Running Shed	ID 14902	
8. Albert Bridge	ID 6371	
9. Art Gallery of South Australia	ID 6396	
10. Barr Smith Library	ID 6365	
11. Bonython Hall	ID 6368	
12. Botanic Garden Toolshed	ID 18607	
13. Brookman Hall	ID 6382	
14. Catholic Chapel West Tce Cemetery	ID 6357	
15. Chapel to Former Destitute Asylum	ID 6359	
16. City of Adelaide Historic Layout	ID102551	
17. Cross of Sacrifice / Stone of Remembrance	ID 14568	
18. Destitute Asylum - Female Section	ID 6441	Indicative Place
19. Elder Hall	ID 6367	
20. Elder Park Bandstand	ID 6351	
21. Elephant House Adelaide Zoo	ID 18585	Indicative Place
22. Foot Underpass under Railway	ID 15160	Indicative Place
23. Government House and Grounds	ID 6328	
24. Hartley Building	ID 18646	
25. Historical Museum	ID 6380	
26. Institute Building	ID 6321	
27. Main gates, Botanic Gardens	ID 6353	
28. Margaret Graham Nurses Home	ID 17392	
29. Mitchell Building	ID 6369	
30. Mitchell Gates and Fencing	ID 14444	
31. Mortlock Library	ID 6390	
32. Museum of Economic Botany	ID 6431	
33. North Adelaide Conservation Area	ID 6434	
34. North Adelaide Railway Station	ID 18435	
35. Old Grandstand	ID 18546	
36. Old Mounted Police Barracks	ID 6402	
37. Old Parliament House	ID 6400	
38. Parliament House	ID 6388	
39. Powder Magazine (former) and Surrounding walls	ID 6429	
40. River Torrens (within Adelaide City)	ID 6444	

41. Rose Garden Fountain	ID 18547	
42. Rotunda Adelaide Zoological Gdns.	ID 18593	Indicative Place
43. Royal Adelaide Hospital Historic Buildings Group	ID 17431	
44. Schoolroom to Former Mounted Police Barracks	ID 6376	
45. South African War Memorial	ID 15815	
46. South Australian Museum	ID 6394	
47. Statue of Captain Matthew Flinders	ID103795	Identified through State
48. Statue of Sir Thomas Elder	ID105021	Indicative Place
49. Statue of Sir Walter Watson Hughes	ID103929	Indicative Place
50. The Adelaide Parklands	ID 6442	
51. The Botanic Garden of Adelaide	ID 6433	
52. Thebarton Mounted Police Barracks	ID 17621	Indicative Place
53. Torrens Lake Weir and Footbridge	ID 15613	
54. Torrens Training Depot	ID101194	
55. Tropical House	ID 6348	
56. Union Building Group	ID103806	
57. University Foot Bridge	ID 14544	
58. Victoria Square Conservation Area	ID 6435	
59. Watch House, Government House	ID 6355	
60. West Terrace Cemetery	ID 18647	
61. Yarrabee	ID 15614	

The Adelaide Parklands Current and Former Structures of National Significance

Adelaide Oval and Surrounds RNE #19236: The RNE Statement of Significance says "Adelaide Oval is well known as Australia's most traditional Test ground, retaining features such as the public mound, with the familiar backdrop of Moreton Bay fig trees and vista of St Peter's Cathedral (known as the Cathedral End), mechanical scoreboard and small scale stands. It represents a style and scale of test grounds that is no longer common in Australia. It is widely valued as Australia's most beautiful test cricket ground, and the view of the Oval from Light's Vision, on Montefiore Hill, is well known and highly regarded. The ground has been the venue of many famous sporting and cultural events and is closely associated with sporting identities such as Sir Donald Bradman, Clarrie, Grimmet and Victor Richardson, each of whom has structures at the Oval named in their honour".

The Memorial Drive Tennis Courts are also included in this RNE listing. They have hosted Davis Cup and Australian Open Championships. Players such as Bromwich, Quist, Sedgman, Rosewall, Laver, Emerson, Newcombe, Ashe, Borg, Goolagong have won titles at Memorial Drive.

Adelaide Oval is also highly regarded at an international level. The South Australian Cricket Association brochure "Adelaide Oval Tours and Museum states "Adelaide Oval is widely regarded as the most picturesque test cricket ground in the world...". Another source, Michael McGuire's article "Delicate economics for Oval update" in the Australian 19-05-03 reads "Updating a well loved icon can be a tricky business. Playing with the Adelaide Oval, regarded by many cricket lovers as the world's most beautiful cricket ground, could be a recipe for disaster". While these two sources may be biased in favour of Adelaide no one is disputing their call.

Old Grandstand RNE #018546: The Victoria Park Grandstands were built over a period of 11 weeks March-May 1882 and opened for the Adelaide Racing Clubs fall meeting on 20 May 1882. The Grandstand is one of the oldest Grandstands in Australia (possibly the oldest) and when restored will be the country's showpiece example of this period. Victoria's oldest at Tarnagulla Victoria RNE 17252 is described as a simple vernacular timber building also dating from 1882. In NSW the Singleton Showground Group RNE 1430 pavilion dates from 1880 but the Grandstand "complements the earlier timber and iron pavilions nearby".

Other References apart from RNE listings:
"The Advertiser" 20-05-1882, 22-05-1882
"The Adelaide Observer" 27-05-1882

The Adelaide Botanic Gardens: There are three structures of national significance in the Botanic Gardens. These are:

1. Palm House (described as Tropical House RNE ID 6348) opened on 22 January 1877. The Botanic Gardens website describes Palm House as: "An exquisite restored Victorian glasshouse imported from Bremen in Germany in 1875 and thought to be the only one of its kind extant in the world". Obviously it must be the only one in Australia. It is also Australia's second oldest glasshouse. (Note: The RNE listing is out of date. Palm House was completely restored 1993-1995)
www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/adelaide.html
2. Museum of Economic Botany: RNE ID 6431 Statement of Significance reads: "Built in 1880 the Museum of Economic Botany in the Botanic Gardens, is the only museum of Economic Botany in Australia and one of the very few in the world".
3. Bicentennial Conservatory: The website description reads "Built to celebrate Australia's Bicentenary (1988) the Bicentennial Conservatory in the Adelaide Botanic Garden is the largest single span conservatory in the southern hemisphere."
www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/conservatory.html

North Adelaide Railway Station RNE #18345: The station was restored a few years ago (details to be obtained). Nationally the station's significance is detailed in the RNE listing. "Bowden, Alberton and North Adelaide stations together have added significance because being the oldest in South Australia, they are also the oldest in Australia (matched only by St Kilda, Melbourne - 1857, now in poor condition). The RNE also mentions the stations design as important to railway history and architectural history generally.

The Adelaide Crematorium: The foundation stone of Australia's first crematorium was laid by SA Premier John Greeley Jenkins on 17 October 1902 followed by the first cremation at the site in the West Terrace Cemetery on 4 May 1903. While this may seem like a commonplace event it represented the culmination of 40 years debate between those supporting cremation on one hand and religious bodies / local councils on the other. Robert Nicol's book (pages 169-200) covers this in excellent detail.

Sydney got its first crematorium in 1925, Melbourne 1927, Brisbane 1934, Hobart 1936, and Perth in 1937.

Following the construction of a new facility at Centennial Park the Australia's first crematorium closed 1 November 1959 after 4762 cremations. The building was demolished in 1969.

References:

1. "At The End of The Road" by Robert Nicol 1994 pages 320-323, 360
2. "The Adelaide Observer" 25 October 1902 page 34, photo page 24

Dardanelles Memorial: This memorial in Lundie Gardens may be the first monument in Australia erected to the ANZACS. It was dedicated 7 September 1915 while ANZAC forces were still fighting at Gallipoli.

References:

"City Messenger" 22-4-1998

<http://www.homepage.ntlworld.com/peter.fairweather/docs/Anzac.htm>.

Old Mounted Police Barracks RNE #6402: This listing must be read in conjunction with the Thebarton Mounted Police Barracks RNE # 17621 which identifies the South Australian police force was the first in Australia - 1838 and that the Old Mounted Police Barracks building was the site where they used to meet.

The Adelaide Parklands Events of National Significance

Australia's First Arbor Day: On 20 June 1889 five thousand school children marched from Victoria Square to a predetermined area south of the Victoria Park Racecourse in the Adelaide Parklands and planted 757 trees, in celebration of the first Arbor Day held in Australia. This event also marked the first celebrations of its type outside of North America (The date of the first Canadian Arbor Day is still being researched - Adelaide's celebration may be the first outside of USA). The significance of this event set into motion similar Arbor Days around Australia the result of which has improved our landscapes nationwide. In Adelaide the fruits of this and other Arbor Days decorate our streets and parklands providing cool shade during the hot summers and added amenity all year round. The site of this event containing 105 of the original Arbor Day trees has national significance and deserves nomination on its own merits to the Register of the National Estate. It will be the subject of nomination(s) at a later date.

One of the reasons leading to the establishment of Arbor Day was the early recognition that deforestation and afforestation was a significant factor in climate change. This was included in the Advertiser article of 21 June 1889 (enclosed) which reported on the Arbor Day festivities. These facts were already known a number of years earlier and were extensively covered in annual reports of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens during the 1870's. Arbor Day represents a starting point for the environmental movement in Australia. In later years it became known as Conservation Day.

The Arbor Day plantings are associated with John Ednie Brown SA Conservator of Forests who developed a System of planting the Adelaide Parklands in 1880. Brown later became Conservator of Forests in WA and may have helped organise Arbor Day in WA

References:

The Advertiser 21 June 1889
The Pictorial Australian June 1889
SA Woods & Forests Department Annual Progress Report # 106 1888-9
Arbor Day: Day of Trees - www.calm.wa.gov.au/forest_facts/arbor_day.html

Foundation of The Salvation Army: The first meeting of the Salvation Army in Australasia occurred in Botanic Park on 5 September 1880. This was the launch of a new religious movement in Australia.

References:

1. Booth's Drum The Salvation Army in Australia 1880-1980 by Barbara Bolton 1980 page 7
2. The Botanic Garden Adelaide South Australia Centenary Volume 1855-1955 page 60

Meetings of the Labor Regulation League: A forerunner of the Australian Labor Party the League was granted a site in Botanic Park for its use around 1890. After it affiliated with the United Labor Party in 1898 there have always been Labor speakers in Botanic Park (to date of last reference). Among them have been Alf Roberts, Gregor McGregor, Tom Price, Crawford Vaughan and John Abel McPherson. (Topic still being researched)

References:

1. The Botanic Garden Adelaide South Australia Centenary Volume 1855-1955 page 60
2. "Sunday Mail" 18 January 1947 page 4
3. "The News" 1 June 1951

The Adelaide to Port Adelaide Railway: The railway is described as "the first colonial (state) owned railway in the British Empire. The opening of the line took place on 19 April 1856" The railway crosses the Adelaide Park Lands and the original Adelaide Station was built on the parklands in 1854 as part of the 9 acre development for the station and yards. (I have not yet determined if this was Australia's first railway)

Reference:

"The Heritage of the City of Adelaide - An Illustrated Guide" Corporation of the City of Adelaide 1990 page 234

The Aboriginal Flag: According to the referenced sources the Aboriginal Flag was first raised in Adelaide's Victoria Square on 12 July 1971. It is noted that the article "Aborigines celebrate National Day" in "The Advertiser" of 10 July 1971 identifies that National Aborigines Day occurred on the previous day 9 July 1971.

References:

ATSIC Document produced by the Office of Public Affairs
<http://www.ausflag.com.au/flags/ab.html>

Other Nationally Significant Trees

Adelaide's Historic Olive Groves: The enclosed document "Walking Tour of Adelaide's Historic Olive Groves" states "South Australia and especially Adelaide can lay claim to be the historic centre of the Australian Olive Industry". Extensive olive plantations were planted on the Adelaide Parklands from 1856 to 1878 supporting this industry. Over 1500 of these trees are still producing olives.

References:

1. <http://www.users.on.net/~craighill/Research/Towards.htm>
2. Parkland Olive Management Plan - Adelaide City Council 2001
3. After Light, A History of the City of Adelaide and its Council 1878-1928 pages 122-125 by Peter Morton 1996

Natural Values of the Adelaide Parklands

Elm Trees: The Adelaide Parklands contain a large number of Elms (1000 or more) of various species and ages. The two oldest circa 1856 are in Pennington Gardens. There are various groups of Elms and individual trees circa 1871 -1885 scattered about the Parklands and Squares. A magnificent avenue of 83 Dutch Elms circa 1882 is located in Park 17. This avenue roughly parallels Parklands Creek and appears in good condition. When the planting date is confirmed (still being researched) it is expected to be associated with the work of J E Brown and his System of Planting the Adelaide Parklands. In Park 19 is an avenue of English Elms planted 1919. This avenue is lacking irrigation and crosses Parklands Creek at right angles. Consequently only the trees located near the watercourse are in good condition, If water was provided much of this Avenue could recover.

Elms of all species are being threatened by Dutch Elm Disease. In England 90% of the countries 23 million Elms have died. Over the rest of Europe more than half have already perished. In North America the disease arrived in the 1930's and continues to spread unabated. In 1989 it reached New Zealand but Australia remains disease free. Australia's Elms are rapidly becoming the World's most significant repositories of these trees. Quoting the Victorian State Heritage listing for Fitzroy Gardens "These avenues are of increasing international significance as Dutch Elm Disease has killed most of the species in the northern hemisphere"

Endangered Plants: The Adelaide Independent Weekly Jan 9-15 featured an article on West Terrace Cemetery (enclosed). Nine species of plants have been found with conservation significance. The Adelaide Parklands have still not had a comprehensive bio-diversity survey with field workers taking surveys in all seasons. It is not really known what remains to be discovered.

The Adelaide Botanic Gardens: The Bicentennial Conservatory contains a number of plants that are at risk or endangered in their own habitat. The Gardens also display one of the rare Wollemi Pines that were recently discovered in the Blue Mountains.

www.environment.sa.gov.au/botanicgardens/conservatory.html