

Adelaide Parklands for World Heritage
Submission to the House of Assembly Select Committee
on Adelaide Parklands Protection

**Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association
August 2001**

The Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association began researching the concept of World Heritage Listing for the Adelaide Parklands in 1996. At the outset we wish to point out to the Select Committee that this has been a voluntary project researched through individual effort working without the advantage of professional heritage training.

The significance of this effort must be measured against the accomplishment likely to be expected by engaging a paid professional task force to properly examine all aspects of potential World Heritage Listing. Much more awaits to be discovered. Our Association strongly recommends that the Select Committee report to Parliament a recommendation that government fund an independent study to achieve a World Heritage Listing for Adelaide. We further recommend that government requests the Minister of Environment to declare the Adelaide Parklands a World Heritage Property pursuant to Part 3 Division 1 Section 14b of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act.

The "City of Adelaide Historic Layout" recently received an interim listing on the Register of the National Estate. This listing included many of the relevant points identified by our prior research. Consequently the focus of this submission is to draw attention to other aspects, not covered sufficiently in the AHC listing; in particular, the personal achievement of Colonel Light in the face of extreme adversity.

Thank you for being a friend of the Adelaide Parklands

Sincerely

Kyle Penick
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Adelaide Parklands Preservation Association

Adelaide Parklands for World Heritage

Introduction

Long ago Da Vinci painted a famous smile on canvas, the Mona Lisa. Many years later, another artist, William Light, painted his on a landscape and created a city. That city is of course Adelaide, and her radiance emanates from the Parklands. Today that famous landscape endures but the smile Colonel Light painted for Adelaide has been fading. Our Parklands. The Parklands. They are to Adelaide what the harbour is to Sydney, and the pyramids are to Cairo. Without them, Adelaide is another town on a map, a place you visited but may not remember.

Unlike the Mona Lisa, which is now very well protected, our Parklands are still subject to plots for commercialisation and exclusive use that remove just another small piece from the priceless treasure surrounding our city. Historically the “small” amounts of Parklands that have been frequently lost are measured in acres and interestingly the “large” areas of alienated land being rarely returned is measured in square metres. Light’s masterpiece, our home, our beautiful city, Adelaide, needs not only your protection for her Parklands today, but your protection for her Parklands tomorrow. The future will surely bring others who will also ask for just a “small” piece of Parkland. Here is the essence of World Heritage; that today’s heritage is protected so it may be passed from one generation to the next. Let us not miss this opportunity to provide for tomorrow’s children that which we have enjoyed today.

The Benefits of World Heritage Listing

A World Heritage Listing will put Adelaide back on the world map once more. Here the green ink of listing will not fade when the Festival packs up, and unlike the Grand Prix, will never move to Melbourne. Once established, World Heritage is a never-ending event, on for 365 days each year at bargain prices. No annual set up costing millions, no contract fees, storage costs or re-routed traffic. Like investing in the right company, there is the initial outlay to be followed by increasing dividends year after year after year.

Publicity

A World Heritage Listing is endowed with a variety of continuous free advertising. (#1 page 481) Internet sites of the Paris World Heritage Centre, Organisation of World Heritage Cities, Australian Department of the Environment and SA based websites would all publicise or contain links to our

listing. UNESCO endorsed books such as “Masterworks of Men and Nature” and “Australia’s World Heritage” would contain a full or several page article in the updated editions as would the quarterly journal “The World Heritage Review”. The impact of listing would naturally follow on to the travel industry and its host of trade, holiday publications and TV shows. Best of all are our own one million residents. Proud of their city’s place among other famous world centres they spread the word far and wide about Adelaide’s World Heritage treasure – the Parklands.

Increased Tourism

World Heritage is the tourist guide to the world’s greatest natural and cultural wonders and the achievement of listing has tremendous economic value to the host community. A number of studies demonstrate these values (#2, #3). South Australia is only visited by 7% of the international arrivals to our shores and only 4.3% of international visitor nights were spent in Adelaide (#4). World Heritage listing will provide a major incentive to visit our city and for those already inclined to visit Adelaide, the temptation to stay a little longer or come again will be enhanced.

“The heritage values of several of the World Heritage properties have been highlighted in tourist promotion campaigns of the area, resulting in marked economic benefits from the increased numbers of tourists” (#8 page 3).

Employment

World Heritage listing will be a major incentive to visit Adelaide and its surrounding areas boosting the economy and employment. According to SA Tourism, for every 20 international tourists to SA a new job is created (#5).

Other Benefits

Events may continue to be held on the Parklands and the financial benefit to be gained by World Heritage Listing will be in addition to the current income from event activity. The additional tourists present in Adelaide who have been attracted by the World Heritage Listing could also increase event attendance.

The guarantee of parkland frontage that will not be built upon and which will be maintained to a high standard will encourage demand for these prestige locations. What is the best address in New York? Park Avenue alongside Central Park.

Improved planning and management (#6 page 8, #7 page 57-58)

Possible State and Commonwealth Government funding (#6 page 7)

Enduring Protection for the Future

World Heritage will ensure the Adelaide Parklands will continue to be here for our future South Australians to enjoy as they do now. They will be here as intact as they are today or even larger, with stolen portions returned to us by governments wiser than yesterdays. Priceless now, their value to us as open space for recreation or relaxation can only continue to rise as Adelaide develops and suburban infill claims more remaining areas.

One hundred years from now after most of us are dead and gone, the one act for which government can be most favourably remembered will be for the dedicated preservation and restoration of these Parklands.

Light was right and returning to his masterful design will be worth the many rewards World Heritage can provide.

References for Benefits of Listing

1. "Developing Sustainable Tourism for World Heritage Sites" by Anne Drost, Annals of Tourism Research, Vol 23, No 2 pages 479-492 1996
2. "Economic and Financial Benefits of Tourism in Major Protected Areas" by Sally Driml and Mick Common, Australian Journal of Environmental Management Vol 2 March 1995
3. "Protection for Profit" by Sally Driml, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, July 1994
4. South Australian Tourism Commission (1997 Figures)
5. "City Messenger" 16-10-96
6. "Australia's World Heritage" published by World Heritage Publishing/Readers Digest 1997
7. "Australia's World Heritage" published by the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories 1995
8. "World Heritage Listing What Does It Really Mean?" published by the Department of the Environment, Sport and Territories 1995

World Heritage in Australia

All of Australia's fourteen World Heritage sites are listed for their natural values, and four (Uluru, Kakadu, Willandra Lakes, Tasmanian Wilderness) are also listed for cultural values associated with Aboriginal Heritage. Australia's cultural links to European settlement have World Heritage recognition only at the remote Macquarie Harbour penal settlement, Sarah Island in the Tasmanian Wilderness listing.

Balance Between Cultural and Natural Nominations

"The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention" (1999 revision) Section A - General Principles Number III states; "efforts will be made to maintain a reasonable balance between the numbers of cultural heritage and the natural heritage properties entered on the list". Further reference is also made in the Guidelines as reproduced below.

126. In order to improve the balance between the cultural and natural heritage in the implementation of the Convention, the Committee has recommended that the following measures be taken:

- (a) Preparatory assistance to States Parties should be granted on a priority basis for:
- (i) the establishment of tentative lists of cultural and natural properties situated in their territories and suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List;
 - (ii) the preparation of nominations of types of properties underrepresented in the World Heritage List.

It appears that in Australia's case there is a place for a cultural nomination representing our European ancestry and that this nomination may receive favourable treatment. Also, as there appears to be no municipal urban parks on the World Heritage List urban parks are obviously under-represented.

Perception of World Heritage

The misconception by some Australians that a World Heritage site must be far older than Adelaide and its Parklands or visually spectacular like the well-known sites of Uluru or Kakadu can easily be refuted. World Heritage not only encompasses scenic areas of outstanding natural beauty or ancient treasures and ruins representative of past cultures, but also may include relatively recent works. The monumental designs of Oscar Niemeyer in Brasilia (1957-1960), The Park Guell, Barcelona, designed by Antoni Gaudi (1900-1914), or Skogskyrkogarden Cemetery, Stockholm (1917-1920) are recent examples.

Pathway to Nomination

Our Association has not made a clear determination of the specific avenue to take in pursuing a Cultural World Heritage nomination. As we have said for many years the Adelaide Parklands are unique. We have found no similar World Heritage sites for comparison of the international values Adelaide possesses, although the Brasilia nomination discussed below was of interest. Our nomination may need to break new ground. Consideration under World Heritage guidelines could be given as a Historic Town or as a Cultural Landscape. In either case it should not be the intent of nomination to adopt a frozen in time philosophy. The Parklands must still be able to adapt to the changing needs of our culture, yet preserve the distinct spatial separation of the urban core from the suburbs, while also providing a place for community recreation and leisure.

Flexible Management Plan – The Brasilia Nomination

Brasilia achieved World Heritage Listing in 1987 as being a unique artistic achievement and for its influence on 20th century town planning. The setting and design of Adelaide nestled by our unique Parklands is also an artistic achievement and the influence of the Parkland Belt on 19th and 20th century town planning could be argued to be greater than Brasilia's successful nomination. Certainly the results of these experiments in town planning and landscape design are in Adelaide's favour.

Brasilia's 1993 State of Conservation Report points out that for a living organism in development, the norms for conservation and development should be flexible.

References:

World Heritage Review Unesco Publishing

Lonely Planet Website www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/sam/bra.htm#facts

Cultural Landscapes

“Cultural Landscapes”, are a more recent category of listing created by the World Heritage Committee in December 1992, 20 years after the World Heritage treaty was adopted. The most easily identifiable is the defined landscape designed and created intentionally by man. This embraces garden and parkland landscapes. Listed sites in this category include the Gardens of the Palace of Versailles and Fontainebleau France, Gardens of Blenheim Palace, England, and part of the Paris listing of the Banks of the Seine which includes an area of parkland near the Eiffel Tower. The universal values of the Adelaide Parklands are different to those of these listed sites and are

more related to historical developments in town planning. There are no city municipal parks on the World Heritage list that have been nominated because of their value as a public park for recreation and leisure. The famous USA public parks such as New York Central Park, Fairmount Park Philadelphia, Grant Park Chicago and Golden Gate Park San Francisco have not been considered by the USA for nomination because government policy requires all US World Heritage sites to be solely owned by the US government.

Reference:

“Cultural Landscapes of Universal Value” Edited by Bernd von Droste 1995

Basis for World Heritage Nomination

Section C of the World Heritage Operational Guidelines define the criteria for the inclusion of cultural properties in the World Heritage List. To be considered for listing a nominated site must meet only one of six possible criteria, plus a test of authenticity and have appropriate legal protection and management to ensure the site is preserved. We have been studying the potential for nomination in up to four areas, any one of which if successful could lead to listing given government endorsement.

Criteria 1: Represent a masterpiece of human creative genius.

The key word here is “represent”. The Adelaide Parklands, Light’s legacy and Adelaide’s most defining element, “represent” Light’s Plan, the “Adelaide Historic Layout” which is the masterpiece. The “Adelaide Historic Layout” is also representative of Wakefield’s ideas for a system of settlement, and indirectly the philosophical and social concerns addressed by English Government of the early 1830’s.

Colonel William Light has been honoured for his work by the square, river, district and suburb that bear his name, the monument over his grave and the famous statue on Montefiore Hill, “Light’s Vision” we all know so well. Such tributes are typical for war heroes, kings and presidents but where else are such laurels bestowed upon a town planner?

As an artwork a masterpiece is frequently copied (refer to section on town planning), described as priceless and written about by peers, critics and admirers. Listed below are quotations typical of potentially hundreds of published accolades. (We have collected a large number of references from 1837 to the present day) The Parklands are a key feature of the Adelaide Plan and without them Adelaide could be a well-planned city but not the masterpiece so described.

“The conception of this belt of verdure on which none but public buildings may be erected, dividing the working part of the town from the residential part has always seemed to me a masterpiece of wisdom in city planning, and hardly less admirable are the five open reserves inside the city which serve as its lungs.” from *Town Life in Australia* by R.E.N. Twopeny 1883

“Broad belts of park lands surround both North and South Adelaide, and as the greater portion of these lands is planted with fine shady trees, this feature renders Adelaide one of the most attractive cities in Australasia”
from the *Encyclopedia Britannica A Dictionary of Arts, Sciences, Literature and General Information* Eleventh Edition Vol 1 1910

“Adelaide today is recognised the world over as a masterpiece of town planning. It’s ‘green belt’ of 1700 acres of parklands separating the city from its suburbs is envied by every city suffering the pangs of over-development”.
From *“This is Australia”* edited by Oswald L. Ziegler 1956

“Adelaide was not only an expression of the ideals of its society, it was an artistic creation and a functional invention which invariably elicited praise from visitors and expressions of loyal pride from its steadily growing body of citizens from “On the Margins of the Good Earth” by D.W. Meinig 1962

In a lecture at the Empire Society in London in 1937, Dr McAdam, the chief planning authority of London, said that the three most charmingly planned cities known to him were Washington, Edinburgh and Adelaide. In 1949 Sir Patrick Abercrombie, successor to Dr McAdam, during a visit to Adelaide confirmed this view. from the *Australian Encyclopedia* 1965

“South Australia’s elegant, human scale capital continues to stand as a monument to the vision and foresight of an imaginative founder whose grid system of streets and invigorating belt of parkland have remained inviolate in an age of freeways and urban sprawl” from *Reader’s Digest Illustrated Guide to Australian Places* 1993

Specific Factors Supporting “Masterpiece” Criteria.

Site Selection

- 1 Colonel Light chose the site for Adelaide only after completing an extensive survey of much of the South Australian coastline. History later proved the site he selected for Adelaide turned out to be the only place in South Australia where the new colony had any real chance of success (#2 page 33).
2. The selection of the site at a distance inland from the Port provided the future city several advantages. The area was largely free from disease carrying mosquitoes, which infested the mangroves at Port Adelaide (#2 page 49). The high sloping ground provided adequate drainage and safety from flooding. The soil was fertile and there was adequate water for drinking and bathing which would have needed cartage to the Port location. Limestone and clay for brick making were plentiful. The 6-mile distance from the Port saved the city from many of the social problems that were associated with dockyard areas of the time and future years. As the metropolitan area grew the urban commercial centre of Adelaide has also remained essentially at the geographical centre (#6 page 105). Locating the Parklands around the central city has made them one of the most accessible parks in the world (#8 page 643).
3. “His choice of a site on the east coast of the Gulf of St Vincent was excellent, for it was as central a point in South Australia to the area capable of supporting intensive agricultural production, as any could be” (#9 page 4)
4. Light also had to overcome the objections of Governor Hindmarsh and the interests of the South Australian Company who insisted the site be at Port Adelaide (#1 pages 189-202). Numerous attempts were made by this faction to have the site moved and was resolved by the famous vote of the holders of land orders on February 10, 1837 who supported Light’s selection 218 votes to 127 (#2 page 30-31). Additional attempts to move the site after this date also persisted (#1 pages 225-235, #2 pages 31,32).

The Survey of Adelaide

The first survey peg was driven into the soil near the present site of the Newmarket Hotel on January 11, 1837 and the survey of the 1042 town acres was completed on March 10, 1837 (#1 page 210, #11 page 17).

The AHC “Adelaide Historic Layout” National Estate nomination describes many of the design features such as Light’s sensitivity to the topography and the provision of wide streets which reduces, but does not eliminate, the need to provide a detailed elaboration of his design in this submission. However one very significant point needs to be noted. Quoting from A Grenfell Price

(#3 pages 106-107 also #2 page 33) “A little later at Melbourne, an established settlement with means of conveyance available, the surveyors took five months to mark out roughly a town of 240 acres”. This must be compared with the masterful design of Light’s far larger achievement, Adelaide, which he accomplished in two. Had the survey taken six months (without the settlers present) Light would have still been applauded for his brilliance. The fact that he did it in two months, under the following conditions, adds further justification to recognise his work with World Heritage Listing.

A further comparison may also be made with towns associated with the New Zealand Company. “All sites were carefully chosen, but the plans were done under pressure – as the surveyors were closely followed by settlers – which is why in some instances the regular gridiron plans usually adopted were imposed on unsuitable topography” (#10 page 738). In Light’s work at Adelaide, settlers had already arrived and the sensitivity to topography exhibited in the design has been noted.

The method that Light used in conducting his survey was “trigonometric “ which was known to take slightly longer to perform but was more accurate than the traditional “running survey” (#1 page 239, #2 page 34).

The Adversities Faced by Light in Completing His Work.

1. Possibly the most significant adversary Light had to face was sadly his own deteriorating health. Colonel Light was suffering from an advanced case of Tuberculosis during the entire course of his work. This disease brought his death at age 54 on October 6 1839, 2½ years after completing the survey of the town acres. He also suffered from gout and there was the added stress from the long hours of work, conflict, climate, poor diet and accommodation (#1 page 210, 231, 236, 238).

2. The site for Adelaide was virgin bush. Paths had to be cleared to make way for the sight lines and survey equipment. It was also six miles to the coast with no road to where the supplies had landed. Several survey points were made from higher elevations such as Brownhill, which had to be walked to again carrying all necessary items over unexplored ground. (# 1 page 237, #2 page 33, #3 page 106)

3. There were no horses or carts in the colony. William Jacob writes on 1 February 1837 “the greatest inconvenience here is the want of Trucks and Bullocks “ (#1 page 197) and Light writes on the sixth “Nothing could have benefited the Colony so much in its infant state as to have sent the Buffalo to Sydney for 3 or 4 wagons and teams of horses” (#1 page 198) and again comments on the difficulties in a letter to Fisher (#1 page 237), All of Lights work had to be completed on foot, and all equipment had to be carried.

4. Light had difficulty obtaining trained workers. Hindmarsh in a letter to Angus 11 April 1837 said Light had only two surveyors “worth their biscuit “ – Mr Finniss and Mr Ormsby (#1 page 196) neither of which were available to Light during the first weeks of surveying the city in January 1837. Initially he had only Kingston and Neale (#1 page 190) and having Kingston was of little advantage as described below. Lack of formal training and the problem that they were on fixed wages and short rations as opposed to the amount paid to uncontracted labourers and surveyors in other colonies caused problems (#1 page 210, 216-219, 243). Despite all these difficulties he was still able to complete the surveys in almost the exact time and money estimated (#7 page 135).

5. January to March was the hottest time of the year and there was the added annoyance of flies and mosquitoes (#1 page 208, #2 page 9, #3 page 106).

6. They were short of supplies. William Jacob writes in his journal for 28 February 1837: “Nearly all the Survey Labourers struck, refusing to go to work without having Tea Sugar and Flour which is in their rations, but the former of which they have not been able to get for three weeks”(#1 page 209, 210).

7. There was a shortage of cash in the Colony and Light is known to have paid his own workers from his pocket (#1 page 211-212, # 3 page 101, #7 page 136).

8. His assistant GS Kingston was described as knowing practically nothing about surveying (#1 page 217). Kingston’s blunders delayed the Adelaide survey by fourteen days (#1 page 196). Light describes Kingston’s inabilities as “He is totally incapable of surveying” (#1 page 242).

9. He had the additional stress of having to deal with opposition from Governor Hindmarsh, George Stevenson and others over the site selection (#1 page 189-202, #2 page 29, #4 page 4, #5 page 726). A presumption might be made that Hindmarsh, through Stevenson’s influence, deliberately sent and left members of the survey team at Kangaroo Island. This may have been done to delay the course of the survey as they preferred a different location (#1 page 190, #2 page 29). The meddling of this faction also removed Light from his work to attend other matters (# 1 page 193, #2 page 29). Light was also burdened with the knowledge that hundreds of settlers were camped at Holdfast Bay waiting on his completion of the survey (#1 page 196, #2 pages 28-29). Light’s difficulties are summed up in his own words in a letter to James Hurtle Fisher, Resident Commissioner in April 1838 (#1 page 237-238).

The Success of Adelaide and the International Significance of the “Adelaide Historic Layout”

1. Robert Gouger (South Australia in 1837; In a series of Letters) describes the success of Adelaide and attributes this success to Colonel Light. Land values of city acres were 7 pounds on March 23, 1837 and he wrote some had risen to as much as 160 pounds. The rapid rise in property values (#11 page 18-19) demonstrated public faith in the site selected and the expectation that it would be successful.
2. The success of the city is interrelated to the success of the whole colony and Light was also responsible for the survey of country sections. This work, done under similar conditions, should be included in the assessment of the Adelaide masterpiece.
3. A Grenfell Price sites Light’s reservation of such a large area for Parkland was of doubtful legality or in other words that Light exceeded his authority. If so his foresight only adds to the wisdom and courage he displayed in planning our city (#3 page 109-110). There was nothing in Light’s instructions about these Parklands (#1 page 207).
4. Adelaide was used as a model for other towns in South Australia, New Zealand and influenced the Garden City movement of the early 1900’s. (see next criteria on town planning).

References for Masterpiece Criteria:

1. “Colonel William Light Founder of a City” Geoffrey Dutton and David Elder 1991
2. “Adelaide 1836-1976 A History of Difference” Derek Whitelock 1977
3. “The Foundation and Settlement of South Australia 1829-1845” A Grenfell Price 1924
4. “Parkbelts in Australia and New Zealand” Charles Reade 1925
5. “Australia’s Heritage The Making of a Nation” Vol. 4, Lansdowne Press 3rd edition 1982
6. “Australia as Human Setting” Edited by Amos Rapoport 1972
7. “Founders & Pioneers of South Australia” A Grenfell Price 1929
8. “Australia” Anthony Trollop 1873
9. “Urban South Australia: Selected Readings” Edited by CA Forster and RJ Stimson 1977
10. “Encyclopedia of Urban Planning” Arnold Whittick Editor in Chief 1974
11. “Heritage of the City of Adelaide” Editors Susan Marsden, Paul Stark, Patricia Sumerling 1990

Criteria 2: Exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design.

Adelaide's belt of parkland has an honoured, well-documented place in the history and evolution of modern town planning. The parkland belt, of which Adelaide's is the world's finest example, represented a major innovation in planning. Generations of planners throughout the world were inspired to model their designs on this concept. Examples as follows:

"The Adelaide Pattern with its division into townland, parkland and suburban land served as a model for 249 out of the 370 government towns surveyed and created in South Australia between 1837 and the present" (#2 point 3.2, #3 page 356).

"In the Northern Territory, the South Australian Government had by 1867 surveyed Southport, Virginia, and Daly with encircling parklands, and Palmerston with partial parklands. Only Palmerston (Darwin) became a reality and exists today with its partly encircling parklands" (#1 page 87).

In West Australia in 1840 about 50 miles south of Perth the town of Australind was planned under the directorship of Wakefield with five squares and surrounding parkland, however it failed to develop (#1 page 87).

In New Zealand parkland belts were developed through the influence of Wakefield in over a dozen localities including Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, Invercargill, and New Plymouth (#1 pages 88-89, #4 page 4). Maps of Wellington and Dunedin show their parkland belts largely intact although in both cities there are gaps in the greenery where development has occurred.

In England the garden cities of Letchworth and Welwyn designed by Ebenezer Howard also reflect this principle (#5 pages 140-142, #6 pages 43-44, #7 pages 151-163, #8 page 26).

The importance of Howard's work cannot be understated. His book "*Garden Cities of Tomorrow*" led to the establishment of the above mentioned cities and fostered the Garden City Movement, which had a worldwide impact on town planning (#7 pages 165-172). In the USA, the new towns of Greenbelt Maryland, Green Hills Ohio and Greendale Wisconsin were built with surrounding or partial parkland belts and they influenced the much larger new towns of Columbia Maryland; Reston Virginia and Irving California (#9 page 394). Again in England in 1938 the passage of the London Greenbelt Act, a second adaptation of Howard's idea was to create a belt around London (#10 page 17). According to the words of Sir Patrick Abercrombie, famous British town planner, "the parks surround and urban units of Adelaide are direct precursors of the greenbelt and neighbourhood planning" (#11 page 268) and Charles Little also confirms this (#10 page 19).

Even plans (1913-1935) for a greenbelt to surround Moscow can be linked to Howard's influence (#12 page 112-115, 221,235) and almost all books on planning contain reference to his work.

Unfortunately, Adelaide does not yet share Howard's notoriety and the reasons for this may be best described by Lionel Frost, Latrobe University Melbourne. "The literature relating to places like Australasia is not widely known overseas. Scholars with eyes only for "their" town are not likely to take much notice of other towns. Furthermore, Australasian scholars have not done much in the way of analytical work to help their overseas counterparts who may be interested in the wider picture" (#13 page 141).

Adelaide is also remarkable in that Light, by preserving the Torrens Valley as Parkland created the first satellite community, North Adelaide (#14 page 112)

References for Criteria 2 – Town Planning

1. "The Parkland Towns of Australia and New Zealand" Michael Williams
The Geographical Review Volume LVI 1966
2. "South Australia from the Air" Edited by Michael Williams 1969
3. "The Making of the South Australian Landscape" Michael Williams 1974
4. "City of Adelaide Historic Layout" Register of the National Estate Database
Australian Heritage Commission 2001
5. "Garden Cities of Tomorrow" Ebenezer Howard Edited with a preface by FJ Osborn 1970
6. "London's Green Belt" David Thomas 1970
7. "Patterns in Perpetuity" by Robert Cheesman 1986
8. "Welwyn Garden City: A Town Designed for Healthy Living" by Maurice de Soissons 1989
9. "The Human Landscape Geography and Culture" by Chester E Zimolzak and
Charles A Stansfield 1983
10. "Greenways for America" by Charles E Little 1990
11. "Introducing South Australia" by Rupert J Best 1958
12. "Moscow Governing the Socialist Metropolis" by Timothy J Colton 1995
13. "The Urban History Literature of Australia and New Zealand" by Lionel Frost,
Journal of Urban History November 1995
14. "Man and His Environment" by RT Appleyard 1969.

Criteria 3 Be an outstanding example of a type of building or architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history.

This criterion may be looked at in two ways. One from the perspective of the “Adelaide Historic Layout” being an outstanding example of a landscape illustrative of a deliberate commercially motivated system of colonial settlement (#2 page 17). The other from the perspective that the Adelaide Parklands are an outstanding example of a public urban park representative of the era of public park building in the 19th century. In both scenarios there may be values significant enough to warrant their inclusion under this criteria. Our expertise confines itself to the study of urban parks for this section.

Research undertaken with regard to the significance of the age, size and accessibility of our Parklands in comparison to other world urban parks has been limited to parks in Europe, North America and Australia. Little material has been discovered locally relating to urban parks in Asia, Africa, and South America.

The Age of the Adelaide Parklands

The Adelaide Parklands, surveyed in 1837, and purchased by Governor Gawler for 2300 pounds on 16 April 1839, are significant in the history and development of public parks. They are among the worlds oldest public parks of modern times. Commons, various Royal Parks and arboreta were open to the public with varying degrees of access much earlier.

Purchase, the passage of regulations and the early provision of enforcement officers establish their validity as public parkland from March 1837 when Light completed the survey of the town acres (#1 page 22-23, #2 page 22, #3, #4). Due to the economics of the period (#5 pages 729-730 and the collapse of the first Adelaide City Council major landscaping was not undertaken until the 1850's. The Council claimed 60,000 pounds had been spent on preservation and improvement by 1879 (#1 page 24).

European urban parks developed from three sources. First were the former estates and game parks of royalty and nobility gradually opened to the public under various conditions of entry. Examples are as follows:

Phoenix Park Dublin was established in 1662 as a Deer Park and opened to the public in 1745 (#6). El Retiro Madrid was originally built as the gardens for the Palacio del Buen Retiro of Philip IV and inaugurated in the fall of 1632. After 1767 it was opened conditionally to the public and in the late 1800 was handed over to the city (#7 page 117). Teirgarten Berlin, was a royal hunting ground and opened to “pleasure strolling” in 1649 (#8 page 168). The Prater Vienna, also a former imperial game reserve was opened in 1766 (#9 pages 52-53). Regent’s Park London was opened in 1838 but “it was necessary to be a man of fortune, and take exercise on horseback or in a carriage” and no

provisions of any kind were made for pedestrians. Kensington Gardens excluded the working class and St James Park was only accessed by those with royal permission and a key (#8 page 169).

Second were parks that developed from open areas (field of fire) outside ancient city walls. Quoting Whitehand, (#10 page 90) "Perhaps even more important on the continent of Europe has been the creation of major roads and public spaces and buildings in the zones formerly occupied by city fortifications....The associated zone of public buildings, promenades, parks, utilities and transport termini became a particular characteristic of major European cities".

Vienna began pulling down its old fortifications on 29 March 1858 and developed the Ringstrasse with its notable areas of parks, grandiose buildings and tree lined avenues (#11 pages 35-41). Cologne has extensive parks along its old fortifications (#12 pages 50-55). Frankfurt has retained extensive park belts on three sides and Krakow appears to be surrounded though the open space there is quite narrow in spots (Map reference).

Thirdly, are public parks that were purposely developed for public recreation and leisure. It is in this category that the Adelaide Parklands (reserved from sale and dedicated as Parklands for the use and recreation of the citizens (#13 page 184) are among the world's oldest. The creation of public urban parks is linked to the establishment of elected local councils. In Prussia this occurred in 1808 and was rapidly followed by most of the German states (#14 page 11-12). In England the first official government recognition of the need for public parks came in 1833 with the report to Parliament of the Select Committee on Public Walks (#10 page 88). This was quickly followed in 1835 by the Municipal Reform Act, which allowed ward based elected local government (#15).

Birkenhead Park near Liverpool England, designed in 1843 and opened on 5 April 1847 claims to be the world's oldest publicly funded municipal park (#8 page 170). The Adelaide Parklands were publicly funded at an earlier date but the applied definition of municipal park indicates local government control. Sadly the 1840 Municipal Incorporation Act, which made Adelaide the second local council outside Britain, defined Adelaide's boundaries as the interior boundary of the Parklands. It was not until the 1849 Act that the Council, when reconstituted, assumed management of the Parklands.

On the Continent, in both France and Germany, public parks had made their appearance by 1829 or earlier (#16 pages 140-142) and this would seem to call into question the claim by Birkenhead. In France the number of public parks must have been small as this quote from Baron Haussmann (responsible for the rebuilding of Paris) indicates. "The creation of Promenades, parks, gardens, squares especially for public use is nearly without example before the second half of this century" (#20 page 201).

The excellent work "The English Park" by Susan Lasdun provides a detailed history of the reasons and formation of English Parks of the period.

It was not until 1858, 21 years after Adelaide that the era of public park building took hold in America. New York Central Park became America's first landscaped public park and was also their first major urban park created for public use (#17, #18). It served as the prototype for public parks in North America (#19 page 114).

References for Age of the Adelaide Parklands:

1. "Decisions and Disasters Alienation of the Adelaide Parklands" by Jim Daly 1987
2. "Heritage of the City of Adelaide" Editors Susan Marsden, Paul Stark, Patricia Sumerling 1990
3. "South Australian Gazette" 20 June 1839; 4 July 1839, 15 August 1839; 5 September 1839; 10 October 1839; 17 October 1839.
4. "The South Australian Register" 11 July 1840
5. "Australia's Heritage The Making of a Nation" Vol 4, Lansdowne Press 3rd edition 1982
6. www.countydublin.com/dublin_environment_phoenix.htm
7. "Philip's Madrid Architecture History Art" by Michael Jacobs 1992
8. "The City Assembled" by Spiro Kostof 1992
9. "The Great Cities - Vienna" by David Pryce-Jones 1978
10. "The Making of the Urban Landscape" by JWR Whitehand 1992
11. "The Rise of Modern Urban Planning 1800-1914" Anthony Sutcliffe editor 1980
12. "Cologne and Stockholm: Urban Planning and Land-Use Controls" Reuel G. Hemdahl 1971
13. "Adelaide 1836-1976 A History of Difference" by Derek Whitelock 1977
14. "Towards the Planned City - Germany, Britain, the United States and France 1780-1914" Anthony Sutcliffe 1981
15. www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Lmunicipal35.html
16. "The English Park - Royal, Private & Public" by Susan Lasdun 1991
17. www.centralpark.org/history/menu.html
18. www.centralparknyc.org/cp-history.html
19. "The Eternal Garden" by Caroline Davies 1989
20. "Parks and Politics During the Second Empire in Paris" by Heath Massey Schenker, Landscape Journal Fall 1995

The Size of the Adelaide Parklands

The Adelaide Parklands are significant in terms of their size in a central urban environment. Of the original 2300 acres, approximately 2030* acres are suitable for comparison with other parks.

First, it is necessary to define what may be included in compared areas. Within Central Parks 843 acres are the roads through the park and the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art (#1). Philadelphia's Fairmont Park contains an art gallery, zoo, a number of historic mansions, and Laurel Hill Cemetery. Golden Gate Park, San Francisco hosts the Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, an art gallery, museum, planetarium and other features. San Diego's Balboa Park is home to their famous zoo. Overall zoos, botanic or other speciality gardens, museums, art galleries, planetariums, golf courses, monuments and historic structures are common features in public urban parks as well as the roads through or within park boundaries (#2). For the Adelaide Parklands we included the following areas:

Controlled by ACC	690 Hectares	(#3)
Roads in or through the Parklands not including Kintore, Frome, Victoria Dr, and part of King William and Montefiore Rds	47	(#4)
Botanic Gardens & Park	50	(#3)
Zoo	8	(#3)
Cemetery	26.7	(#3)
Total	821.7 hectares	or 2030* acres

The art gallery, museum, and War Memorial were not included in the figures for Adelaide because they are not adjacent to Parkland areas. Government House and the Torrens Parade Ground were left out because they are not open to the public.

The attached table of USA Urban Parks shows there are a number of larger municipal parks in the United States. The acreages of many of these large parks, such as the mountain parks in Arizona, are physically constrained by many acres of rugged terrain rendering most of their size suitable only for wilderness and wildlife habitat. Other large parks are associated with reservoirs for municipal water supplies and much of their acreage is water.

The only US urban park larger than the Adelaide Parklands close to the central business district is Philadelphia's famous Fairmount Park, the largest landscaped city park in America. Most of Fairmount Park lies outside what could be considered easy walking distance from downtown Philadelphia as the layout runs outward from the city (#2). The Adelaide Parklands are far more accessible and Adelaide would certainly hold the distinction of having the worlds largest amount of acreage devoted to parkland within a mile of the city centre. Beyond the landscaped area of West Fairmount Park, Fairmount Park becomes a linear park as it follows along the banks of the Schuylkill River. Combining the acreage of the Adelaide Parklands with the Torrens Linear Park, Adelaide may exceed Fairmount Park's size. Phoenix Park Dublin, at 1752 acres is the largest public park in Europe located in a central urban area.

A similar table for European Parks is to be compiled by our Association at a later date.

References for Size of Adelaide Parklands:

1. Letter to APPA from City of New York 19-June 1998
2. Personal Visitation, Maps and park literature
3. Adelaide City Council State of Environment Position Paper 1994 page 51
4. "Decisions and Disasters - The Alienation of the Adelaide Parklands"
by Jim Daly 1987

Accessibility of the Adelaide Parklands

By virtue of:

- A. The Parklands totally surrounding the central business district and North Adelaide
- B. The location of the central business district being located in essentially the centre of the metropolitan area
- C. The metropolitan area being located central to the greater population of South Australia
- D. The provision of public transport and nearby parking facilities

The Adelaide Parklands are one of the most accessible urban parks in the World.

Unique in the World

As the world's finest example of parkland belt, the Adelaide Parklands define the boundaries of our city clearly separating the business district from the suburbs. Adelaide is unique; it is the only city in the world of significance to be completely surrounded by parkland. *

"While it appears that Adelaide is the only city in the world completely surrounded by parklands, that in itself does not make the parklands a World Heritage site." Premier Dean Brown (#1)

"Adelaide is justly famed for its morphology. The threefold urban pattern has no real counterpart elsewhere in the world" Michael Williams (#2 point 3.1).

"There is no modern city in which the distinction between city and suburbs is so clearly marked. It is as clear as in the case of cities of old time, which were walled about. The Adelaide walls are parklands, which are highly valued and which will be more and more valued as time goes on" (#3 page 163).

"Adelaide is popular with tourists because of its.... unique belt of Parklands around the central business area" (#4 page 68).

"Adelaide is the only major world city completely surrounded by parklands" (#5).

A number of cities come close to having a complete park belt but still have a gap in the enclosure. Wellington and Dunedin New Zealand (#7) and Boulder Colorado USA (#6 page 17, #7) all come close. In Europe, Frankfurt is nearly surrounded on three sides with a river on the fourth. Krakow Poland requires further study as it appears to be surrounded outside the ancient city walls by a park belt that looks very narrow in spots.

References for Unique in the World:

1. Letter to Ian Gilfillan Chairman APPA from Premier Dean Brown 1 Oct 1996
2. "South Australia from the Air" by Michael Williams 1969
3. "Australia's First Century" Edited by EE Morris 1980
4. "World Book Encyclopedia" Vol 1 1994
5. "BP Explore Australia The Complete Touring Companion" 1996
6. "Greenways for America" by Charles E Little 1990
7. Map References

Criteria 4: be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works, of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criteria should justify inclusion in the List only in exceptional circumstances and in conjunction with other criteria cultural or natural.)

Association with Ideas:

The “Adelaide Historic Layout” is associated with Wakefield’s theory of systematic colonisation. His ideas were adopted for the settlement of South Australia and for New Zealand a few years later. The “Adelaide Historic Layout” is also reflective of Jeremy Bentham’s utilitarian principle of the “greatest happiness of the greatest number” (#1). “It also reflects contemporary ideas about the provision of common or reserved land for its aesthetic qualities, for public health and recreation and as a form of concentric zoning” (#2 page 1).

More distantly the “Adelaide Historic Layout” can be associated with the philosophical and social ideas of the English reform era. The government which approved the Foundation Act to establish the Province of South Australian also:

1. Approved legislation which extended the voting franchise (Reform Act of 1832) (#3),
2. Abolished slavery in the British Empire and freed an estimated 770,280 slaves (1833 Abolition of Slavery Act) (#4),
3. Regulated the working hours in the textile industry and in particular the hours that children could work (1833 Factory Act) (#5),
4. Established ward based elected local government (1835 Municipal Reform Act) (#6).

Association with Events:

The Adelaide Parklands can be associated with numerous events related to the history of Adelaide and South Australia. Our Association is slowly preparing a separate paper detailing these events in chronological order. South Australian history may be of limited value in relation to World Heritage but a number of these events may be of some use and are listed as follows:

Opening of the Adelaide-Port Adelaide Railway; the first State owned railway in the British Empire. (#7 page234)

Inaugural meeting of the Salvation Army of Australasia held in Botanic Park September 1880. (#7 page 275)

Bodyline Cricket series at Adelaide Oval 1930?

First raising of the Aboriginal Flag in Victoria Square July 8 1971

References for Ideas and Events:

1. "Utilitarian Town Planning 1825-1845" by Francis E Hyde
The Town Planning Review Vol XIX 1947 pages 153-159
2. "City of Adelaide Historic Layout" Register of the National Estate Database Australian Heritage Commission 2001
3. www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/PR1832.htm
4. www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/slavery33.htm and "Advertiser 4 8-2001 "Milestones this week in history"
5. www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/IR1833htm
6. www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/Lmunicipal35.htm
7. "Heritage of the City of Adelaide" Editors Susan Marsden, Paul Stark, Patricia Sumerling 1990

Legal Protection

Australian Commonwealth World Heritage legislation is contained in the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 Part 3 Division 1 Subdivision A. This Act replaced the provisions of the World Heritage Properties Conservation Act 1983.

Clause 12 requires that a person must not take an action that will have or is likely to have a significant impact on the World Heritage values of a declared property. A significant impact means one or more of the world heritage values will be lost, degraded or damaged. Exceptions may apply and for further information refer to the Act and its explanatory notes.

Legal Protection Needed.

The World Heritage Operational Guidelines #24 b II states the following in regard to legal protection.

“Each property nominated should therefore have adequate legal and/or contractual and/or traditional protection and management mechanisms to ensure the conservation of the nominated cultural properties or cultural landscapes. The existence of protective legislation at the national, provincial or municipal level and/or a well- established contractual or traditional protection as well as of adequate management and/or planning control mechanisms is therefore essential and, as is clearly indicated in the following paragraph, must be stated clearly on the nomination form. Assurances of the effective implementation of these laws and/or contractual and/or traditional protection as well as of these management mechanisms are also expected. Furthermore, in order to preserve the integrity of cultural sites, particularly those open to large numbers of visitors, the State Party concerned should be able to provide evidence of suitable administrative arrangements to cover the management of the property, its conservation and its accessibility to the public.”

APPA is of the opinion that government should begin an immediate undertaking to list the Adelaide Parklands on the State Heritage Register. This should also include the city’s six squares.

Furthermore, the government should create “Parkland Frontage Development Areas” to require a higher standard of development in areas bordering the Adelaide Parklands and squares. This would ensure development continuity over all the adjacent councils in their portion of the frontage area and provide incentives for removal of undesirable signage, undergrounding of services and landscaping improvement.

The World Heritage Operational Guidelines point 17 suggests the provision of such an area as follows:

“Whenever necessary for the proper conservation of a cultural or natural property nominated, an adequate “buffer zone” around a property should be provided and should be afforded the necessary protection. A buffer zone can be defined as an area surrounding the property which has restrictions placed on its use to give an added layer of protection; the area constituting the buffer zone should be determined in each case through technical studies. Details on the size, characteristics and authorized uses of a buffer zone, as well as a map indicating its precise boundaries, should be provided in the nomination file relating to the property in question.”

Suggestions for Additional Research

1. Assessment of any World Heritage values relevant to rare or endangered species. A full flora and fauna survey has never been completed. Until this is done it is unknown if there are any rare or endangered species needing protection.
2. Assessment of any World Heritage values relevant to significant heritage structures located on the Parklands ie Palm House, Adelaide Goal.
3. Assessment of other cultural aspects representative of sport and leisure. It has been suggested that the site of the Adelaide Oval was used as a sporting venue for Aboriginal Culture for thousands of years.
4. Brasilia was successfully listed in 1987 for its impact on 20th century town planning. Is Adelaide's role in 19th century town planning more significant?
5. Was the original reservation of the Adelaide Parklands, 2300 acres or 2332 acres? When Governor Gawler purchased the Parklands on 16 April 1839 he made two purchases; one for the Parklands and one for the cemetery.
6. How many acres are in the Torrens Linear Park excluding the portion in the Adelaide Parklands? Would the combined acreage of the Adelaide Parklands and the Torrens Linear Park be larger than Fairmount Park Philadelphia?
7. Ebenezer Howard proposed 32,000 to be the ideal population of his Garden City. Did his idea of population also come from Adelaide? What was the population of Adelaide in 1898? Should this figure include North Adelaide as Howard's design did not include a satellite in his ideal population?
8. Was North Adelaide the world's first satellite city? RT Appleyard in "Man and His Environment" 1969 page 112 states "Light not only surrounded the parent city with parklands but also included the first satellite, North Adelaide. Does this mean the world's first satellite or Adelaide's first satellite? The AHC National Estate listing of the North Adelaide Conservation area states "The significance of North Adelaide in the history of town planning lies in the application of a satellite principle by William Light in separating it from South Adelaide, with park belt.
9. Charles Reade in "Parkbelts in Australia and New Zealand" mentioned two items of further interest: Adelaide's influence upon Melbourne, Brisbane, and other centres could be established by reference to plans and documents of the period. Secondly, it was still to be proven that the New Zealand system, dating from 1839-1840, was the outcome of Colonel Light's example in South Australia during 1836-1837, or if both were part of an inspiration derived from London.

10. Natal (Orange Free State in South Africa) was colonised by England in the 1840's. Is there any evidence to indicate that the Parkland belt idea also spread there? Robert Cheesman in "Patterns in Perpetuity" pages 95-98 examined Durban. Did he also look at other sites in Natal and British East Africa?

11. Thirteen New Towns were constructed in Italy during the period 1928 - 1940. Did any of these new towns have park belts, as the Garden City movement was still active in this period? "Building New Communities New Deal America and Fascist Italy" by Diane Ghirardo 1989

12. Do the Adelaide Parklands have a valid challenge to Birkenhead Park's claim of being the world's oldest publicly funded municipal park? The 2300 pounds authorised by Governor Gawler on 16 April 1839 for their purchase and the provision of measures the same year to insure the Parklands protection may be considered public funding. Adelaide did not have an elected "local council" until 31 October 1840 and the council did not acquire management of the Parklands until 1849. However, the 1840 Act setting up the Municipal Corporation gave the Corporation control over the Torrens and its tributaries in the Parklands. Specifics of Birkenhead's claim need to be examined including what year the park was managed by an elected Council as opposed to the "Birkenhead Improvement Commission" (1844?). Also local Government in Germany was well advanced at the time and it seems unusual that a park on the Continent would not have a similar claim.

13. Identification of any "events" associated with the Parklands relevant to World Heritage.

14. Have National Geographic provide confirmation that Adelaide is the world's only significant city to be surrounded by Parklands.

Other Comments

Contained within this submission are only a part of the materials sourced. Several hundred pages of articles from journals of urban planning and history and other publications (many obtained from overseas) have not been used in the preparation of this document. These materials can be made available to the Select Committee or a working party delegated to seek World Heritage listing.

Conclusion

In 1910 then Deputy Mayor Lewis Cohen stated:

“The parks are the pride and glory of this city – the best and greatest asset it has, or ever can have. To every generation they are becoming more valuable. Let us, therefore, keep them inviolate, keep them intact, keep them sacred from the hands of the despoiler.”

This remark is as true today as it was 91 years ago. Let us therefore endeavour to commit ourselves unswervingly to the task ahead, to setting aside political differences, and provide for our Parklands the best protection possible - **World Heritage Listing**.