

3.0 ADELAIDE PARK LANDS & SQUARES

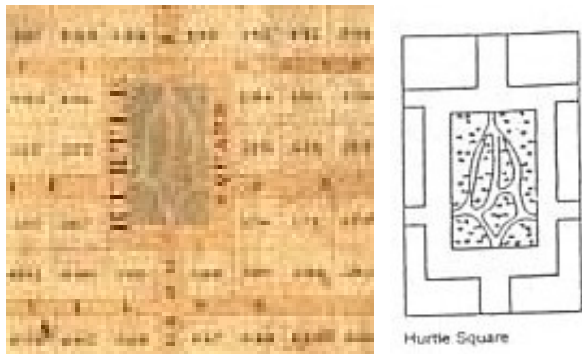
3.1.30 Hurtle Square Report



Hurtle Square

Historical Overview: Site Context

Hurtle Square exists as a rectangular-shaped square that was proposed in the original survey plan of Adelaide as signed by Colonel William Light dated 1836. It was named by the Street Naming Committee after James Hurtle Fisher, South Australia’s first Resident Commissioner.



Figures

Left: Plan of Hurtle Square as portrayed in the ‘Plan of the City of Adelaide 1837’ as prepared by Colonel Light. Source: ACC Archive.
Right: Abstracted plan of Hurtle Square as portrayed in the ‘Plan of the City of Adelaide 1836’ as prepared by Colonel Light, indicating Light’s theoretical garden design and pathway system for Hindmarsh Square. Source: Russell 1992, p. 3.

Historical Overview: Aboriginal Associations

There are several specific references to Kurna sites or activities, pre-contact or post-contact, for Hurtle Square (Hemming 1998).

From the 1920s to the 1960s Hurtle Square was a focus of minor Indigenous activities but not as popular as Light, Victoria and Whitmore Squares because of the concentration of Aboriginal residents in the West End of Adelaide. These activities included a role as a central meeting place, as a gathering place, and as a drinking venue. The place has also been referred to as the ‘Memory Square’ by Kurna (Draper *et al* 2005, pp. 32, 47, 96; Hemming 1998, pp. 58-59).

Historical Overview: Post-Contact Associations

In April 1854 the colonial government was petitioned by the Corporation for funds to fence, layout and plant all the Squares, including tabling specifications “for the fencing and planting the public squares &c” in the City of Adelaide. These documents identify principally Victoria Square but it was clear from the specification that the intent applied to all the squares, as it detailed the number and species of trees to be planted, including specimens of *Acacia* spp (*Robinia* spp?), almond (*Prunus dulcis*), olive (*Olea europaea*), “gum tree” (*Eucalyptus* spp), poplar (*Populus* spp), cypress (*Cupressus* spp), and others, with some 3,000 to be planted in Victoria Square, 1,500 each in Hindmarsh, Light, Hurtle and Whitmore squares, 500 in the Palmer Gardens/Pangki Pangki/Park 28, 1,000 in Wellington Square, and 500 in the Brougham Gardens/Tandotittinga/Park 29 (State Records Office, Colonial Secretary’s Office, Correspondence, Town Clerk, Adelaide City Council, to Colonial Secretary, 29 April 1854, GRG 24/6/1310; Specification for Planting the Squares, 12 April 1854, ACC Archive SQ18540504).

Hurtle Square was clearly included in these discussions and the planting program.

On 4 May 1854 the colonial government, through the Lieutenant Governor, acceded to this proposal and granted £2,000, in that time a considerable expenditure “for planting and ornamenting the squares of the city” to a level that “the Council may be enabled to carry out in a manner satisfactory to the Citizens of Adelaide” (Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, 4 May 1854, VS18540504; Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, 4 May 1854, GRG 24/6/1108. Reputedly, over half of this money was expended on works in Victoria Square. A condition of the funds was that tenders would “be called for by advertisement for fencing and planting the squares of Adelaide in accordance with plans and specifications adopted by the Council.” Whether the contract was actually advertised in the newspapers is unclear, but horticulturist and later first director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden George Francis was the successful tenderer (Worsnop 1878, p. 121; *The Register*, 9 May 1854, p. 2).

In his “Tender for the Laying out and Planting the Public Squares &c of the City of Adelaide”, dated 18 May 1854, Francis proposed to undertake all layout and planting works in all the Squares and Gardens but excluded the fencing. He claimed that, “The whole planting may be completed in 5 months from the present time, provided the fencing be completed in 3 months & provided also that Victoria Square be done first” (Best 1986, p. 48; George Francis, “Tender for the Laying out and Planting the Public Squares &c of the City of Adelaide”, 18 May 1854, ACC Archives SQ18540518).

By September 1855 Francis reported that all these laying out and planting activities had been completed. This is the first record of conscious landscape design works and planting activities in the Squares, laying much of the spatial and planting framework that inaugural City Gardener William O’Brien obviously adopted and used when appointed to this position in 1865. It is also probable, given Francis’ self-promotional activities seeking the establishment of a botanic garden, that Francis used this tender as an opportunity to trial species as to their relevance to the soils, climate and conditions of the squares and gardens, as it is clear that he may have planted more specimens than required by the tender (Best 1986, p. 48; *The Register* 6 June 1855, p. 2).

Olives (*Olea europaea*) appear as an under-current in this experimentation, preceding their *en masse* planting in plantations in the Park Lands, but clearly not a lot of specimens were planted in the squares and gardens. By 1886 Italian olive (*Olea europaea*) expert Paolo Villanis reported the existence of fruit-bearing specimens remaining in the Brougham Gardens/Tandotittinga/Park 29, Palmer Gardens/Pangki Pangki/Park 28, Wellington Square, Hindmarsh Square, Light Square, and in Whitmore Square. Villanis, an expert in olive (*Olea europaea*) propagation and cultivation makes no mention of the other Squares, so it is fair to say that by 1886 there were no olive (*Olea europaea*) trees in these squares and that O’Brien had reviewed and assessed their condition and integrity of retention within his parks and gardens development works (Correspondence, Paolo Villanis to Town Clerk, Report re Olive Plantations, 22 February 1886, TC 1886/465).

Discussions by the Corporation and the Mayors (Lord Mayors) about landscaping the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri embankments as well as the Park Lands and Squares generally were commonplace from the mid 1850s onwards.

These public debates and discussions appear to have been prompted by concerns from the colonial Governor about the overall aesthetic appearance of the Park Lands. For example, on 17 July 1855 the Colonial Secretary wrote to the Corporation’s Town Clerk expressing a desire “that something should be done to improve the present very unsightly appearance of most of the Park Lands near the Town; which he [Governor Gawler] thinks might be effected by the judicious planting of clumps of trees on half acres [0.2ha] or even quarter acres [0.1ha] in suitable positions; care being taken to fence such clumps with strong but neat fencing.” Willingly, to assist these landscaping works, the Governor volunteered a budget of £400, “a sum

sufficient to accomplish much, but not all that he wishes” which the Corporation eagerly accepted “at once to carry out His Excellency’s wishes and propose to do so by means of competent gardeners [on] contracts to be obtained by advertisements in the usual newspapers, the works generally being performed under the supervision of the City Surveyor.” With acceptance, the Governor imposed one condition requiring the appointment of an expert referee to monitor the works: “that some person should be nominated by himself to represent the Executive in this matter and to have a voice in the selection of the position of the several plantations and of the species of fencing to be made use of.” The Colonial Secretary appointed horticulturist John Bailey, of Hackney Nursery, to this role. Unfortunately this scheme collapsed with the dissolution of the Legislative Council in August 1855 despite unknown authored sketch “on the subject of planting a Public Square” being sent to the Corporation on 9 October 1855, with correspondence from the Governor indicating that “the writer of the memorandum has indicated some most sensible and just views of Landscape Gardening...” The advice included a recommendation that, “in a climate like South Australia’s and to avoid the inconvenience of having to wait years for effect, clumps should be formed of the Olive [*Olea europaea*], the Wattle [*Acacia* ssp] and Gum-tree [*Eucalyptus* ssp] ...” It is possible the plan author was Francis, more so than Bailey as there is no evidence of Bailey’s plan drawing skills whereas the sketch the text is similar in style to Francis’s hand (Letter, Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 7 July 1855, GRG 24/6/1381 (1855); letter, Town Clerk, ACC, to Colonial Secretary, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2505 (1855); letter, Town Clerk, ACC, to Colonial Secretary, 13 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2644 (1855); Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/1605 (1855); Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 20 August 1855, GRG 24/6/1740 (1855) Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2129 (1855) Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/3289 (1855)).

While Francis, Bailey and Sheriff Boothby were predominantly planting olive (*Olea europaea*) trees in the Park Lands, City Gardener William Pengilly also undertook olive (*Olea europaea*) plantings in several areas. During 1872 he was planting them on Light Square, in the North Adelaide Plantations (Kuntingga/Park 7, Barngutilla/Park 8, Karrawirra/Park 12), adjacent to Bay Road [Anzac Highway in Wirranendi/Park 23 and Wikaparndo Wirra/Park 22], in the West Terrace Park Lands (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, Narnungga/Park 25), in the North Terrace plantation, and on the Racecourse (Bakkabakkandi/Park 16)but no mention was made of Hurtle Square. Villanis, in 1882, corroborated the existence of these plantings when he reviewed the state and condition of all the olive (*Olea europaea*) plantations in the Park Lands for the Corporation recording substantial olive (*Olea europaea*) groves “between the Port and Slaughterhouse Roads and Sheep Market” in Tulya Wodli/Park 27, adjacent to West Terrace (Wirranendi/Park 23, Tambawodli/Park 24, Narnungga/Park 25), along “both sides of Unley Road” in Pityarrilla/Park 19 and Kurrangga/Park 20), in the “East Park lands, between the Botanic Gardens and the Old Race Course” in Kadlitpinna/Park 13, Mullawirraburka/Park 14, Ityamaitpinna/Park 15, Bakkabakkandi/Park 16), and the existence of “two plantations between Walkerville and River Torrens” in Kuntingga/Park 7, Barngutilla/Park 8 (Letter, Paolo Villanis to Town Clerk, 13 July 1883, TC 1883/2224; *The Register*, 24 July 1883, p. 6; letter, Paolo Villanis to Town Clerk, 22 February 1886, TC 1886/465; letter, William Pengilly to Town Clerk, 16 July 1872, TC 1872/519 and 4 September 1872, TC 1872/622).

The state of the garden system in the municipality prompted the Corporation to call for applicants for the position of City Gardener in 1854. William O’Brien was successful. An experienced Gardener born in c.1812 in Dublin, Ireland, O’Brien arrived in Adelaide in 1858 on the *Utopia*, and lived in North Adelaide. He died on 18 October 1884.

O’Brien’s first task upon appointment was the condition of Victoria Square, and the other Squares were second. He inherited a garden landscape with foundation plantings by George Francis but displaying evidence of a lack of care and maintenance. Further, the Square existed as

two garden quadrants at this time; equal northern and southern quadrants. O’Brien wrote of his works in the Square as follows:

Contractors are to remove fences on both divisions of Victoria Square and replace them in the southern part with a post and wire fence. The northern division of Victoria Square is to be fenced by the Corporation with iron hurdles and gates which have been procured from Messrs Morewood and Rogers. The paths are to be 16 feet [4.8m] wide and gravelled. We will dig a border around the whole at a given distance with a fence on both divisions ready for trees and plants as per the plan. I will plant a hedge of sweet briar [Rosa ssp] along the whole of the fence. I intend to provide and plant 3,000 trees and shrubs, these being acacia [Acacia ssp?], almond [Prunus dulcis], olive [Olea europaea], gums [Eucalyptus ssp], poplars [Populus ssp], cypress [Cupressus ssp] and others, laburnum [Laburnum ssp], honeysuckle [Melaleuca ssp], willows [Salix ssp], Spanish broom [Spartium junceum], aloes [Aloe ssp], cactus, geraniums [Geranium ssp], roses [Rosa ssp] and some bulbs. All the open spaces will be regulated and planted with grass seed. Hurtle and Whitmore Squares will be fenced in with post and rail. The rails to be taken from Victoria Square and new ones provided if required. I will also dig a border as in Victoria Square and plant a hedge of sweet briar [Rosa ssp] and plant at least 750 trees and shrubs in each Square. Similarly for Hindmarsh and Light Squares. Wellington and Hurtle Squares will be fenced and a briar [Rosa ssp] hedge put in as before and 1,000 trees and shrubs (Mayoral Reports, 4 May 1854).

This was an extensive and most detailed program of works for the first twelve months of his appointment, and unfortunately no plan exists to indicate his visions or his skill in horticulture and garden design. Despite these good intentions, O’Brien was hampered in the quality of his program due to the contractors. The gardens continued to deteriorate, and the walks became infested with weeds and were ill-maintained. He also sought from the Corporation a tree propagating area. Interesting, those species he did propagate were predominantly Australian species: South Australian Blue Gums (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*), Olive (*Olea europaea*), River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Willow (*Salix* ssp), Roses (*Rosa* ssp), Cork Oaks (*Quercus suber*), Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*), and Sheoaks (*Allocasuarina* ssp) (Register 1863).

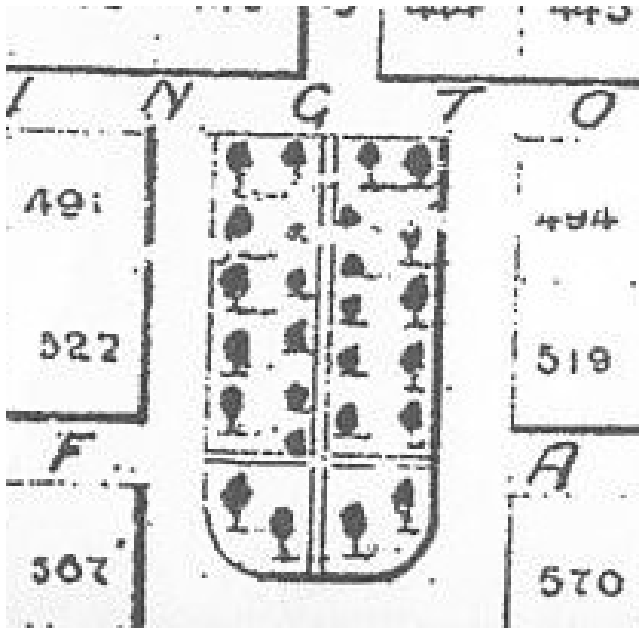
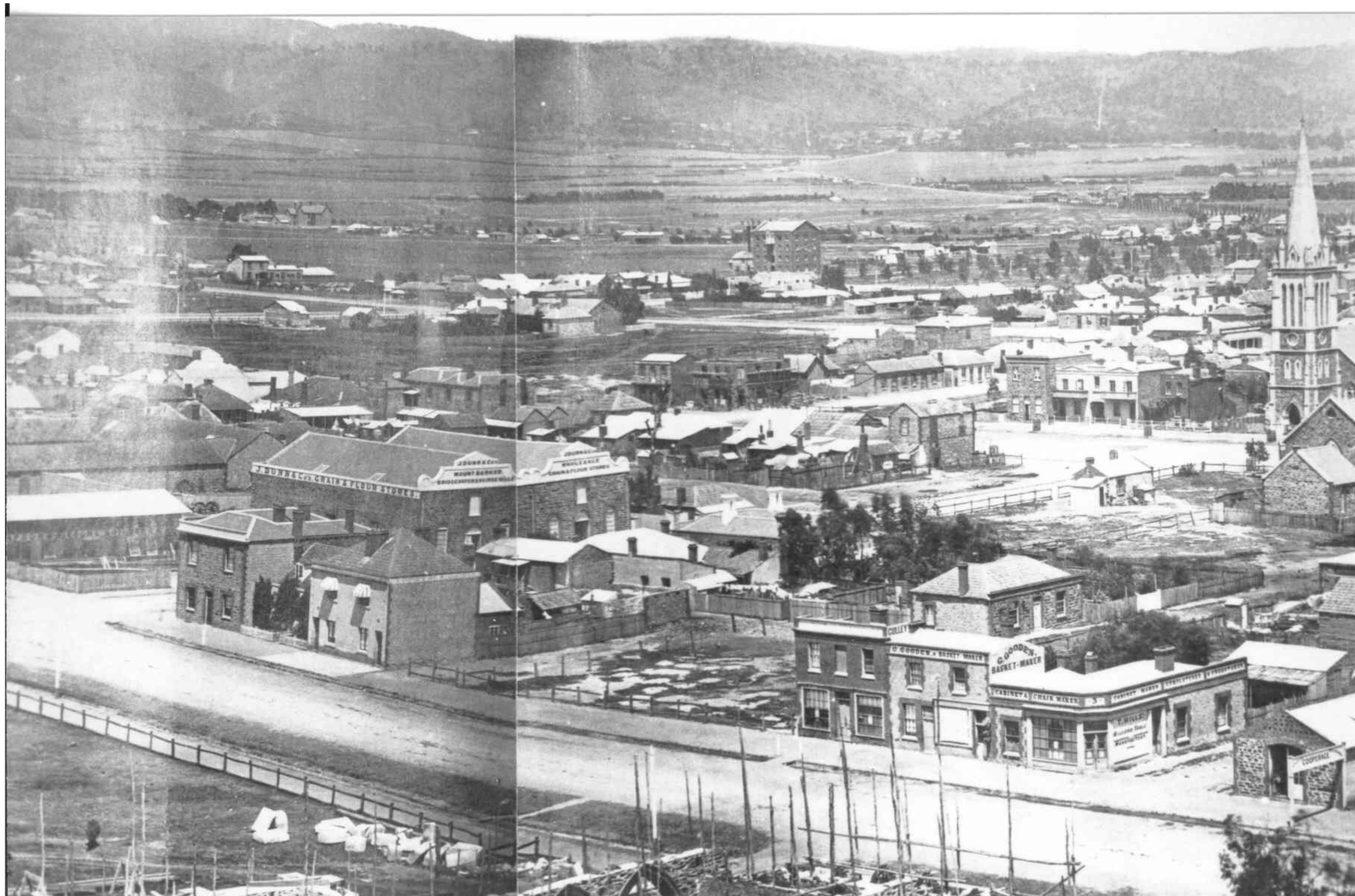


Figure
Extract from the *Plan of the City of Adelaide* as prepared by the City Surveyors Department dated 11 February 1865. The image depicts the original large rectangular Square, with an arc-ed portion on the southern flank which aligns with the extant plantings of English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) today. Note also the cross pathway system and the regimented tree planting pattern that was established at that time. Source: ACC Archives.



Figure

Extract from Townsend Duryea's 1865 photographic panorama of the City of Adelaide taken from the Corporation's Town Hall focused upon Hurtle Square, looking to the south-east with extensive tree planting evident in Hurtle Square to the right between the 4-5 storey flour mill, located in the north-eastern corner of the Square, and the church spire demonstrating the planting already undertaken by Francis and O'Brien. Source: History Trust of South Australia.



Figure
Extract from the *Australasian Sketcher* depicting an aerial perspective of the City of Adelaide published 10 July 1875. The image depicts the 4-5 storey flour mill on the north-eastern corner of Hurtle Square and an extensive vegetation canopy in the Square but a pattern of vegetation arrangements that cannot be clearly identified. Source: ACC Archive.

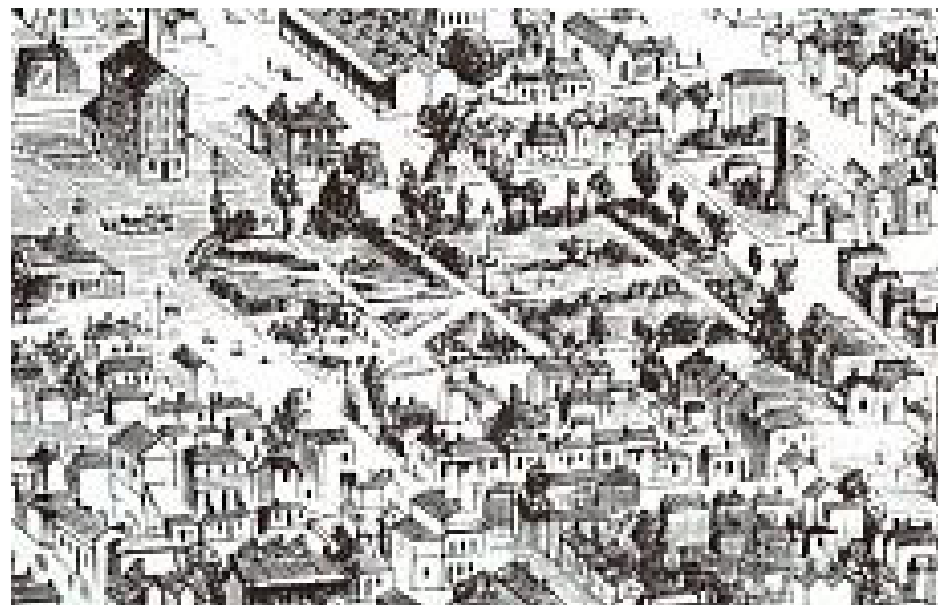


Figure
Extract from the *Sydney Illustrated News* July 1876 depicting Hurtle Square with the 4-5 storey flour mill in the north-eastern corner of the Square visually evident. This image appears to wrongly depict the Square as having an inverted curved arc on the northern rather than southern flank. A fountain is also included and there is no record of a fountain being erected in this Square. Despite these errors, the pathway system appears somewhat accurate. Source: ACC Archive.

Upon the invitation of Mayor John Colton, City Gardener William O'Brien wrote to the Corporation on 19 August 1874 proposing "a list of Ornamental Trees suitable for planting in the Squares of the City." The list comprised: 2 Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*), 4 Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*), 6 (*Grevillea robusta*), 6 Thuja (species unspecified), 6 White Cedars (*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*), 6 Kurrajongs (*Brachybiton populneus*) and 6 Cassia (*Cassia bicaularis* syn. *Cassia candolleana*). It is unclear whether the Corporation approved this list, and

which Square it pertained to, but is likely that these were planted by O'Brien (Town Clerk's Docket 714 of 1874).

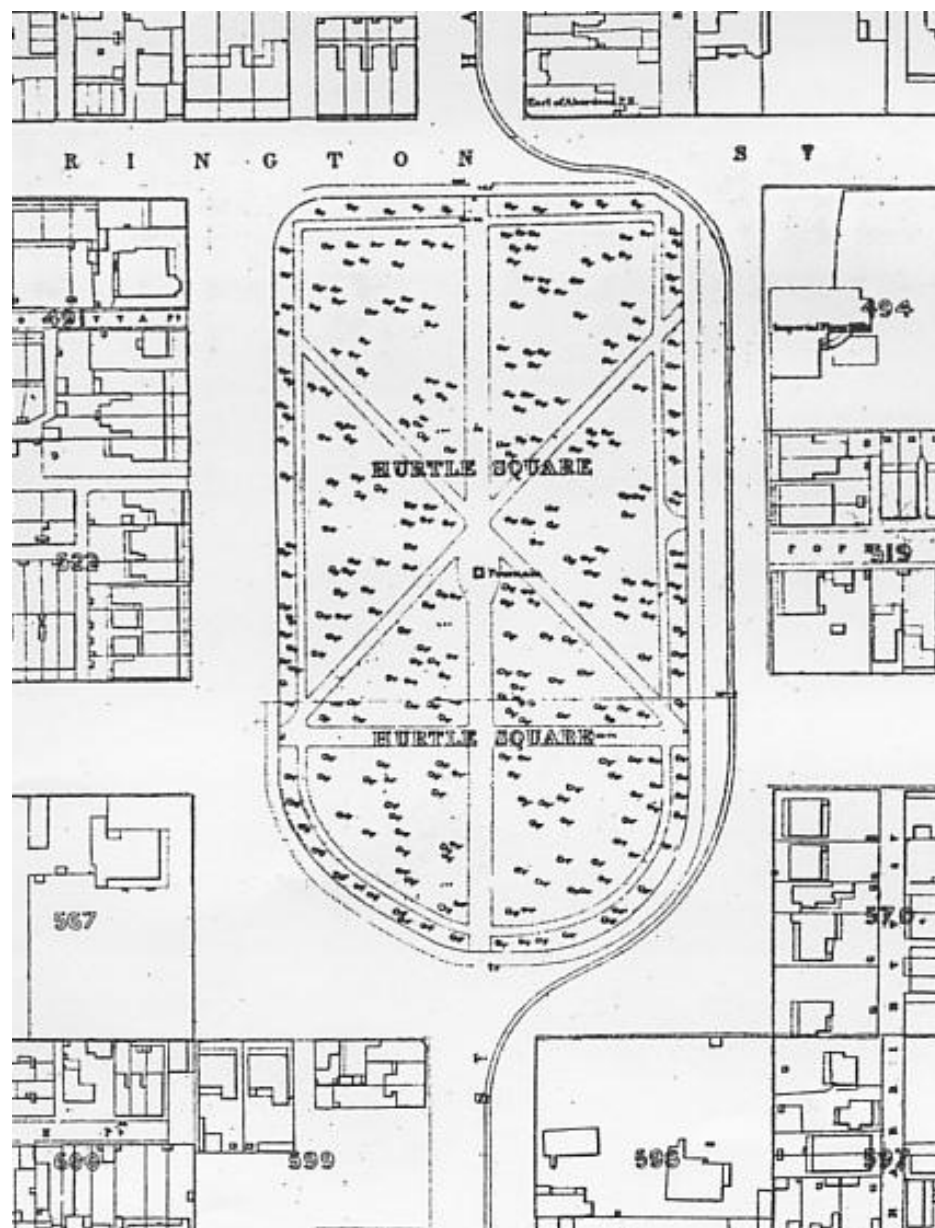
It is clear, given the Townsend Duryea (1875) photograph, *Sydney Illustrated News* July 1876 and *Australasian Sketcher* 10 July 1875 lithographs as well as these text reports by Francis and O'Brien that Hurtle Square had been extensively planted with ornamental trees by 1875 and that several were in a mature state of growth.

The state and condition of extant fencing around the Squares was subject to Corporation deliberations in the late 1870s. Mayor William Bunday consciously sought to remove the "old and decaying split post and rail fences from the City squares" and to erect "substantial and ornamental railings round these enclosures." Bunday saw it as a major aim of his tenure as Mayor and an important task for "beautifying the city". The City Surveyor prepared designs for these cast iron ornamental railing fences, with a more elaborate palisading version for Victoria Square as distinct from the other Squares. Tenders were called for both designs and works awarded. Presumably City Gardener Pengilly was faced with removing the old post and rail fencing to enable the contractors to proceed. Mayor [Sir] Edwin Thomas Smith witnessed the erection of the ornamental cast iron palisading but also had to deal with public criticism of the Corporation's expenditure of the palisading. His argument was that, "consistent with the end they had in view, a bold but neat palisading which adds so much to the appearance of the Squares, and to the ornamentation of the streets, and saves to the Corporation at least £2,000" was an investment well made. These palisades were erected around all five squares by early 1881. Costs for the palisading and its erection were: Hurtle Square £1,242 18s 6d (*Annual Report* 1879-80, p. 82; 1880-81, pp. 110-111; 1881-82, pp. 34-35, 41).

What is not discernable in the Townsend Duryea 1865 photograph is the fountain that was reputedly positioned in this Square in the middle to late 1800s. It is evident, by the implied graphic representations in the lithographic panoramic projections of the municipality published in the *Sydney Illustrated News* July 1876 and the *Australasian Sketcher* 10 July 1875, a fact collaborated in the 1880 Smith Survey of the City of Adelaide, that fountains may have been positioned in the central point in each Square. There has been little factual evidence to substantiate these graphic representations, and the only evidence of a pre-1900 fountain pertains to Hindmarsh Square.

While the debate about palisading was continuing City Gardener Pengilly was busy tree planting in the Squares. During 1881-82 he planted 50 trees in each of Light, Hurtle and Hindmarsh Squares. In 1882-83 he planted an additional 40 trees in Hindmarsh and Hurtle Squares. Unfortunately the nature of the species is not stated but his purpose was to plant new specimens and to replace "missing" trees (*Annual Report* 1881-82, p. 137; 1882-83, p. 135).

In commissioning John Ednie Brown to prepare a *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands* (1880), under Mayor Bunday, there was no attempt to include the Squares in this investigation. This perhaps indicates the quality of landscape that was extant in the Squares that City Gardener William O'Brien had established; Pengilly was charged with Squares and garden development and maintenance but also had jurisdiction over the Park Lands. Despite this it is clear the O'Brien was establishing tree plantations along several road corridors through the Park Lands. These fenced enclosures, planted with shelterbelt trees, included Glen Osmond Road, Bay Road (Anzac Highway), Port Road, and East Terrace. The scope of these works are illustrated in a 'Plan of the City of Adelaide' prepared by the City Surveyors Office on 11 February 1865. This plan appears to be more accurate than the tree shelterbelt representations that appear in the lithographic axiometric perspectives of Adelaide as published in the *Australasian Sketcher* and the *Sydney Illustrated News* respectively (Brown 1880; Plan of City of Adelaide, 11 February 1865, ACC Archives).



Figure

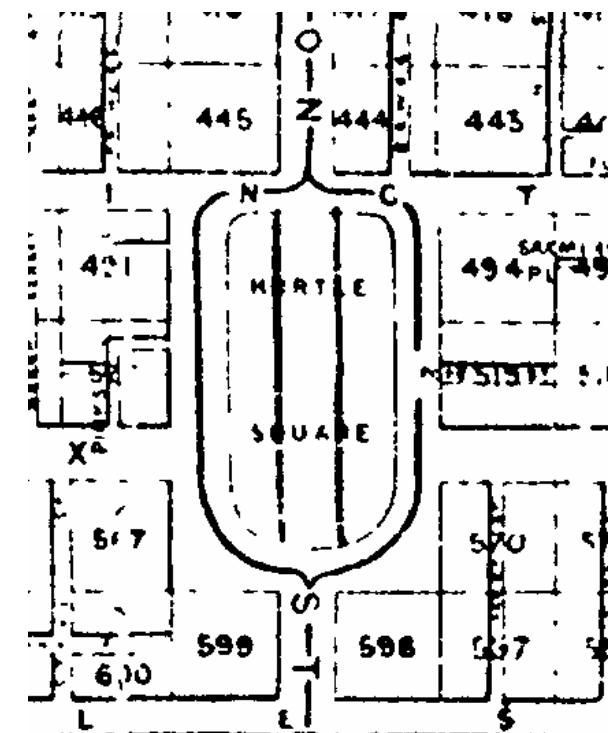
Extract from *Smith's Survey of the City of Adelaide*, 1880, depicting Hurtle Square in 1880. This is very detailed plan that illustrates the southern arc which aligns with the present extant plantings of English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) specimens, it indicates a fountain at the pathway intersection which correlates with the 1875 *Sydney Illustrated News* aerial perspective although there is no formal record of a fountain, the union jack pathway configuration and the inner perimeter pathways and the extensive nature of tree plantings in the Square. Note also that the horse-drawn tram, in 1880, was directed around the eastern perimeter road of the Square and not through the middle as was constructed in 1909 thereby enabling the construction of the present north-south roadway through the Square. The reliability of this plan as a primary source is more respected than the *Sydney Illustrated News* 1875 image so it would be far to conclude that there was a fountain positioned in the middle of the Square in the 1870s-1890s but no record of its existence or removal has been discovered. Source: ACC Archive.

With John Ednie Brown's appointment as 'Supervisor of the Plantations', upon the invitation of Mayor Edwin Smith in April 1882, Brown commenced foundational work in implementing parts of the *Report's* (1880) recommendations. Pengilly was advised that Brown shall have "general supervision of the tree planting in the Park Lands" and to "render Mr. Brown every facility for this purpose ..." (Town Clerk's Dept Outwards Letter Book, 1882/602/18). A fractious relationship occurred with Brown and Pengilly, and a specific incident over street tree plantings

along Barton Terrace West prompted Brown's resignation from this position in August 1882. While the Corporation sought to remedy the situation, continued disobedience and contrary activities by the City Gardener and his workforce eventually prompted Brown's formal resignation on 1 June 1883. In his letter of resignation he wrote "I must for the sake of professional reputation, seek to be relieved of the responsibility." With this decision the Corporation determined to sack Pengilly, and therein had a series of City Gardeners until such time as August Pelzer (1862-1934) was appointed City Gardener (1899-1934) in mid 1899.

Newly appointed City Gardener Richard Patterson in 1885 reported with "great pleasure" of the improvements effected in the landscapes of the Squares. He also recorded that he had installed numerous "openings" in the palisades "to allow persons in charge of perambulators getting these vehicles into the Squares." Despite this "some ill-disposed person or persons" caused considerable vandalism to the palisades in all the Squares over the 1885 Christmas holidays "especially to that round Hurtle Square." Newly appointed City Gardener John W Hayes reported on these acts of vandalism in 1886 and that the gardens and trees in the Squares were also "in very good order" (*Annual Report* 1883-84, p. 50; 1885-86, pp. 48, 111-112).

Under Patterson and Hayes several minor landscape works were effected in each Square in the 1880s. Several "moribund cypress trees" were removed from Hurtle Square to enable better growth of adjacent trees. A new water service was installed in the Square in 1889 together with planting couch grass. In 1895 Hayes reported that all the Squares "are looking very well; but all the paths should be bordered with bricks on edge to maintain the regular width of the paths and keep the public from destroying the borders." Hurtle Square continued to be subject to acts of vandalism. Hayes was frustrated by often monthly acts of tree mutilation, tops of cast-iron rail heads being broken off, and water troughs being severely damaged (*Annual Report* 1887-88, p. 41; 1889-1890, p. 77; 1894-95, p. 64; 1896-97, p. 69).



Figure

Extract from 'A plan of Adelaide and the Park Lands' as prepared by the City Engineer in 1895, depicting a change in the horse-drawn tramway routes around the Square and an unusual dual north-south line patterns through the Square which might pertain to tree plantings or electricity transmission lines as also occurred in Victoria Square. Source: ACC Archive.

Behind these snippets by the City Gardeners was a progressive deterioration of the quality and management of the gardens in the Squares. This was brought to a head in 1897 when the Corporation established a Special Committee to inquire into the “whole working and management of the squares.” Following a series of meetings and site inspections to all squares, Council determined a set of “drastic alterations” including tree removal works to be undertaken. Some 32 trees were removed from 32 from Hurtle Square concluding that the trees were either “dead, dying, or unsightly.” The Corporation also determined that proper arboricultural treatment was required of all trees in the Squares and that a gardener be specifically placed in charge of each Square reporting directly to the City Surveyor. Under this policy change the Corporation witnessed a change in the landscape quality of the Squares. At the same time the Corporation determined to establish a Parks & Gardens Department, appoint an experienced and qualified City Gardener, establish a tree nursery in Tuyla Wodli/Park 27, and establish a “permanent Tree Planting Committee” under the Chair of Councillor William Ponder (*Annual Report* 1897-98, pp. 73-74).

A key to the success of these policy changes was the appointment of August Wilhelm Pelzer in mid 1899 to the position of City Gardener. It was a position that he held until 1932. A secondary key was the role of “indefatigable” Ponder who extensively enabled the actions and visions of Pelzer to be implemented enabling funding and political support within the Corporation. Ponder was passionate about trees and tree planting, and undertook research on tree planting activities of various cities around the world including Washington DC, Paris, Cleveland, Sydney, etc. (*Annual Report* 1898-99, pp. 22-23).

Pelzer immediately set to work renourishing the Squares. He re-seeded the lawns with couch grass, and commenced his tree assessment process by the “grubbing of the most unsuitable trees” (*Annual Report* 1898-99, pp. 149, 150).

Clearly the immediate works Pelzer set upon were strategic aesthetic improvements to the lawns, flower beds and trees of each Square, and also measures to delimit inappropriate human activities in the Squares. He extended the spread of couch grass lawns in all Squares, and proposed the erection of metal hoops in Hurtle Square “in order to break ... the habit of making these tracks.” These hoops were erected in 1901. His view was that he supported any Corporation engineering action that introduced “intersecting roads” to the Squares as it would “cause much of the pedestrian traffic to be diverted from the Square.” In terms of trees, he recorded his view that “all the Squares were overcrowded with trees” and that an urgent program of thinning and grubbing was needed to enable adequate light and air to the remaining trees and also enable good growth in the lawns. Species that heightened this problem were Pines (*Pinus* spp), Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), and Pepper Trees (*Schinus aerea* var *molle*). These tree species were grubbed and lopped in Hurtle Square including alternate Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*). Taking advantage of a donation of 100 Cotton Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) from parliamentarian and philanthropist George Brookman in early 1900, sourced from Henry Sewell’s Payneham Nursery, Pelzer scattered these specimens in various squares and reserves and then had to erect 1.5m high tree guards around them due to vandalism. He also planted new shrubs on the pathway routes to the toilets in Hurtle Square (*Annual Reports* 1899-1900, pp. 292-294; 1901, pp. 9, 41).

Obviously these tree grubbing and lopping measures in Hurtle Square were not sufficient, and Mayor Lewis Cohen drew the conclusion in 1902 that this Square was the:

... dirtiest of all the Squares on the account of so many Moreton Bay fig trees (69) growing in this Reserve. They are continually shedding leaves, figs, etc., and the Square cannot be kept tidy unless a man does nothing but rake up leaves, etc., all day long (*Annual Report* 1902, p. 29).

This was a considerable number of Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) trees – sixty nine – to be planted in one Square and the maintenance costs as a consequence are well expressed. During 1903-04 Pelzer appears to have started extensive thinning if not removal of numerous specimens of Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) as he was reporting that the trees had been “thinned out so as to admit more light to the middle of the trees and to the couch grass underneath.” The reference also points to the original extensive plantings in the Square being largely a ring of English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) along the encircling roadway and a centre of primarily Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) of which only 4 Figs (*Ficus* spp) exist today (*Annual Report* 1902, p. 29; 1904, p. 62).

Despite measures to remove trees Pelzer also started planting new trees. In Hurtle Square in 1902 he planted 1 English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) together with 3 Mirror Bushes (*Coprosma repens*), 1 Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) and 1 Buckthorn (*Rhamnus* spp). And in the flower beds were “Gaillardias, Petunias, Phlox, Zinnias, Stocks, Sunflowers, Cosmos, Allysums, Snapdragons, Pansies, Geraniums, Canna Centaureas, and Roses [sic.]” An additional English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) was planted in 1904 (*Annual Report* 1902, p. 30; 1903, p. 24; 1904, p. 64).

In addition, the irregular movement of people across the lawns in the Squares caused Mayor Lewis Cohen and Pelzer considerable angst as it characterised many of their regular reports to the Corporation. In Hurtle Square they came “from 12 different directions” (*Annual Reports* 1899-1900, pp. 292-294; 1901, pp. 9, 41; 1902, p. 29).

A significant management issue in all Squares was dogs. The Corporation had become frustrated in finding measures of preventing dogs entering the Squares and fouling the flower beds. Mayor Alexander Ware observed that “the damage done by the ill-bred mongrel is quite equalled by that of the aristocratic canine; in both cases it is very discouraging both to the gardener and his men.” In 1900 Pelzer proposed an extensive fencing program that involved wire netting fixed on iron railings supported on jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) battens with self-closing swing gates. He provided costings for these works as follows: 28 chains in Hurtle Square at £44/15/6. All Squares were fenced by the end of 1901. Pelzer painted the fencing in 1902 (*Annual Report* 1899-1900, pp. 106-107; 1901, pp. 9, 16; 1902, p. 20).

One of Pelzer’s first actions was also to review the existing regulation system applicable to the Squares and Park Lands. In 1900 he proposed to the Corporation, which they adopted, a revised and co-ordinated set of bylaws to enable the policing of the public. This was the first major review of these regulations and provided the foundation for the current version of bylaws. Signage advising these new by-laws was erected in 1901 (*Annual Report* 1899-1900, pp. 109-110; 1901, p. 44).

Mayor [Sir] Edwin Thomas Smith also accompanied Pelzer “at least once a week” in 1900-1901 inspecting all the gardens and reserves and reviewing the Departmental staff capabilities. This was quite a commitment of time by a Mayor. His conclusion was that:

... I can honestly bear out his [Pelzer’s] remarks that his staff has worked well during the year, and has been kept fully employed. The staff is now composed of a capable lot of men, and I am satisfied with the “weeding out” process which I undertook some two years ago. I have also caused the men to be shifted about occasionally, a process which has been found wholesome, and a corrective to any possible symptoms of stagnation.

In the City Gardener, Mr Pelzer, I am convinced that the Council possesses a very capable officer, who takes an abiding interest in his work (*Annual Report* 1901, p. 9).

From the mid 1900s onwards Pelzer sought to renovate Hurtle Square to resolve the legacy of Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) plantings that dominated the Square, together with adding to and extending the flower beds. In 1906 he planted 6 shrubs in the flower beds, and in the following year Pelzer re-laid out the flower beds in “various shapes” and replanted them with “ornamental shrubs, cannas, and various herbaceous and other flowering plants” (*Annual Report* 1906, p. 62; 1907, p. 61).

In the same period the Corporation’s attention also turned to the provision of children’s playgrounds. It was a topic that occupied the Corporation’s reports for the next 10 years as various playground proposals were discussed, debated, and Mayor Charles Glover started donating funds to permit the construction of such facilities. Pelzer was involved in these proposals as he had to design and playgrounds as well construct and plant the spaces. Alderman (later Mayor) Isaac Isaacs first raised the topic in the Corporation on 13 January 1908 wherein it was carried:

That this Council take into consideration the advisableness of reserving portions of Hindmarsh, Hurtle, Whitmore, Light, and Wellington Squares and Plantations for Children’s Playgrounds, and provide the same with swings and other appliances for recreative purposes, and with that end in view the Town Clerk submit a report on Children’s Playgrounds to the Parks and Gardens Committee, having special reference to the provision made in Melbourne and Sydney, and as to the establishments in America, England, and the Continent of Europe (Annual Report 1908, p. 20).

While the Town Clerk prepared and submitted a report, the Corporation eventually proposed the location of playgrounds in the surrounding Park Lands and not in the Squares (*Annual Report* 1909, p. 49; 1910, p. 37; 1912, pp. 64-65; 1914, p. 71). At the same time the Corporation was dealing with the installation of tramways through the municipality. Because of the laying of electric-car tracks going through Hurtle Square, the Squares would have to be remodelled and the Corporation viewed that the Municipal Tramways Trust (MTT) should contribute to “pay a fair proportion” of the costs. The Trust eventually allocated £674 to the remodelling of Hindmarsh and Hurtle Squares (*Annual Report* 1908, p. 21; 1909, pp. 47-48). Interestingly, Mayor Frank Johnson also stated, perhaps seeking advice from Pelzer, that:

The lawns in all the Squares require re-planting, and it would be good policy to have them laid out afresh. The garden plans in Whitmore, Light, Victoria, and Wellington Squares are antiquated and should be remodelled (Annual Report 1908, p. 21).

The suggestion that the Squares needed to experience extensive remodelling more likely came from Pelzer given his standing and expertise in the Corporation, and his desire to re-create the Squares subtly expressed in his *Annual Reports*. But there was also impetus from the volume of use of the Squares. During 1909 the Corporation undertook user surveys of the Squares recording users on weekdays and weekends. For Hurtle Square, an average of 2,500 to 13,000 adults were recorded per month, and some 800 to 5,000 children per month (*Annual Report* 1909, pp. 45-46).

During 1909 the electric-tram tracks were laid through Hurtle Square dividing the Square into its present four quadrants. Pelzer waited until these works were completed before he set about re-landscaping the Square which was completed by the end of 1910. Works included re-levelling large parts of the Square, planting some 441 Privet (*Ligustrum* ssp) plants to form hedging to hide an open stormwater drain, erection of light guard fencing to protect these newly-planted hedges, the re-erection of cast iron opening posts and palisading at the north and south ends of the Square, and replanting of couch lawns. Works on pruning and thinning the mature Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) continued regularly (*Annual Report* 1909, p. 63; 1910, pp. 51, 53; 1911, pp. 65, 66; 1912, p. 98).

In April 1913 Alderman (later Lord Mayor) Lewis Cohen first proposed the removal of all iron palisading fencing around the Squares and Gardens in the municipality requesting Mayor [Sir] Edwin Thomas Smith to consider what options were viable. Mayor Edwin Smith replied, noting that the municipality’s streets were still being used as stock routes for sheep and cattle, but also his sympathy with the aesthetic rationale behind the question, that:

1. *The removal of the fences round Victoria, Hindmarsh, Hurtle, Whitmore, Light and Wellington Squares could not be considered at the present time on account of the large number of persons who kept cows within the City. ...*
2. *The removal of the fences round the above-named Squares was not within the bounds of practical politics at the present time, for the further reason that sheep were driven from the North Terrace Markets every week to the butchers’ shops throughout the City and Suburbs, and if the fences were removed while such sheep-driving continued, the lawns inside the Squares would be ruined.*
3. *The same remarks, applied to the fences round the Reserves on North Terrace and the North Terrace Gardens generally. ...*
5. *The light palisading fences round the flower beds in the centre of Victoria Square were put there designedly about fourteen years ago; prior to that time the flower beds were trampled upon and ruined.*
6. *Last year the Town Clerk made an experiment by removing a small portion of the fencing round the North Terrace Gardens between the University Grounds and the Jubilee Exhibition Ground. The experiment proved to be disastrous, as within three months the lawn was practically ruined by persons making short cuts across it, and the Town Clerk had to have the fence replaced.*
7. *When the Abbatoirs were open, and the new Stock Markets at Gepp’s Cross, it would be possible to remove the fencing round Victoria Square, because that locality was less affected by wandering cows, but if this should be done in the near future, it would most certainly entail the Council in heavy cost for dwarf walls to protect the outer edges of the lawns. The cost would run into approximately £1,500 at least (Annual Report 1913, pp. 53-54).*

In conclusion Mayor Edwin Smith recorded that “he was quite in accord ...” with Cohen “from the aesthetic appearance of the Squares ... yet he was constrained to counsel caution in a policy which would be costly and might lead to disaster in the Gardens which were such a source of pride to the citizens and delight to visitors.” With this policy determination, the matter of the removal of the palisading did not re-surface until 1916 in various forms as proposals (*Annual Report* 1913, pp. 53-55; 1916, p. 32).

Notwithstanding the debate about the palisade fencing Pelzer continued renovation works to Hurtle Square. In 1913 he continued pollarding works and planted additional shrubs. The section of Pulteney Street between the Square and South Terrace was originally called Brown Street. Along Brown Street were planted English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) as street-trees. In 1915 Pelzer diagnosed these trees as experiencing a root fungus (*Agaricus meleus*) and had to fell six mature specimens. His concern was that “fungi live in the soil and penetrate long distances into the roots and the solid wood, and the tree suddenly sickens and dies,” so he had to act to prevent the fungi spreading further along Brown Street and into Hurtle Square. In the following year he removed the old African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferrocissum*) hedging and re-planted it with Kaffir Apple (*Dovaylis caffra*) in the Square. The existing Privet (*Ligustrum* ssp) hedges in the Square were extensively trimmed and reduced in height in 1917, and a new tool shed was erected in 1921 (*Annual Report* 1913, p. 64; 1915, p. 67; 1916, p. 42; 1917, p. 41; 1920, p. 30; 1921, p. 37).

In 1922 Pelzer drew an overview of the condition of the Squares generally noting that they were “well maintained” but still room for improvement if not remodelling. His concerns were with the style of the design, the “large, unsightly Pine (*Pinus* ssp), Pepper (*Schinus aerea* var *molle*), Lagunaria (*Lagunaria patersonii*), Moreton Bay trees (*Ficus macrophylla*) trees, etc.” that characterised the Squares and which were now “totally unfit for City Squares.” Pelzer’s desire

was for large scale renovations, pointing the success of the mass removal of Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*) trees in Victoria and Pine (*Pinus* spp) and Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) in Wellington Squares that had “very much improved” the Squares (*Annual Report* 1922, p. 26). In 1924 Pelzer felled and grubbed 10 “large” Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) “in line with Halifax Street” as part of works for widening the roadway north-south through the Square, including the re-sowing of lawns. At the same time the iron palisade fencing was removed from the Square, Pelzer converted areas of bitumen into new park and lawns, paths were laid with tar, seats installed, a large octagonal seat erected around the trunk of a large Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), and some 28 new trees planted. Despite the removal of the palisade fencing, Pelzer erected 22, white painted, cast iron guideposts at the mouths of the pathways in the Square. These road works finalised the present road system in Hurtle Square (*Annual Report* 1924, pp. 38, 83; 1925, pp. 34, 35, 74; 1926, p. 42).

The removal of the palisade fencing proved a success as little problems were experienced, as evidenced by Pelzer’s review of the remodelling of the Square:

No trouble is experienced by the public making short-cuts (tracks) across the lawns, because the new pathways were laid down strictly in accordance with pedestrian traffic. The removal of fences from any reserve situated at points of street divergence should be considered only on condition that the reserve be remodelled and designed for the absolute convenience of pedestrian traffic in direct cross-lines, otherwise the removal of fences will not be a success (Annual Report 1926, p. 39).

Despite this positive outcome, Pelzer still caused to erect iron hoops in many parts of Hurtle Square (*Annual Report* 1927, p. 32).

On 29 February 1932 Pelzer retired and the Corporation commenced a reorganisation of the City Gardener’s Branch (*Annual Report* 1931-32, p. 27). Following Pelzer’s retirement a sequence of gardeners and a change of commitment to the gardens and the Park Lands is evident throughout Adelaide notwithstanding the Centenary of South Australia celebrations in 1936 (*Annual Report* 1935-36, p. 37). On 15 April 1935 the Corporation appointed A Stanley Orchard FRHS to replace Pelzer to the re-titled and relegated position as ‘Curator of Parks & Gardens’. Orchard brought to the position “theoretical and practical training and experience in England,” with varied work experience in New South Wales in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, and Victoria. Orchard passed away suddenly on 15 March 1939 (*Annual Report* 1933-34, p. 33; 1938-39, p. 8).

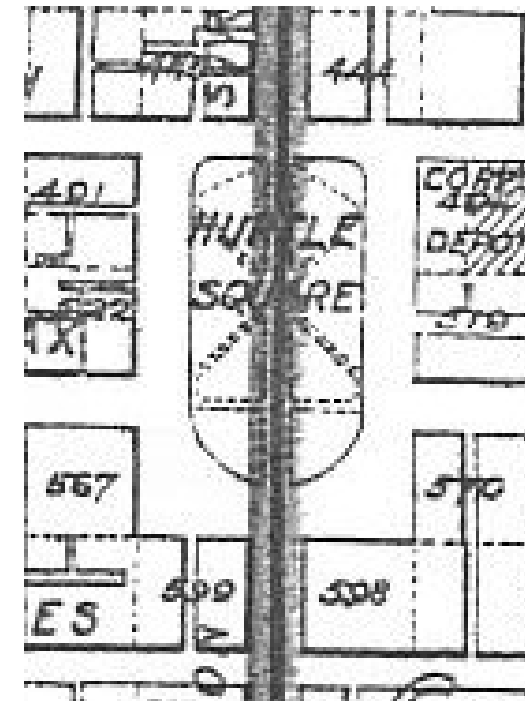


Figure
Extract of a *Plan Showing Improved Pavements* in the City of Adelaide as prepared by the City Engineer dated 14 November 1927 that depicts the configuration of Hurtle Square with the electric tram lines running north-south through the Square before this alignment was re-constructed to cater for both trams and vehicles. Note the extant pedestrian system that accords with previous plans. Source: ACC Archives.



Figure
Extract of a 1936 aerial photograph of metropolitan Adelaide illustrating the scope of mature tree cover in Hurtle Square, and the north-south tramlines that now ran through the Square. The pedestrian circulation system within the Square is very evident by the quartz gravelled pathways. Source: University of Adelaide.

Near the end of the Second World War, in late 1944, Alderman (later Lord Mayor) John McLeay turned the Corporation’s attention to the quality of its Squares. The funds expended on the Squares had dwindled, many of the trees planted in the 1860s-70s and in the 1880s-1930s were aging or in poor quality, and much of the Squares had been appropriated for air raid construction and training purposes. McLeay recharged the Parks & Gardens Committee and undertook a tour of all the Squares with City Gardener Benjamin Bone. In terms of Hurtle Square the Committee recommended:

- *In the Councillors’ view all trees should be removed with the exception of two large Moreton Bay Fig trees growing on the lawns immediately north of the Halifax Street crossing and trees growing on the strips of lawn between the north and south sections of the Halifax Street crossing..*
- *Alderman McLeay differs from the above recommendation and advocates the removal of the Moreton Bay Fig trees.*

(ACC Minutes of Parks & Gardens Committee, 17 November 1944).

No action appears to have been taken on this decisive recommendation presumable due to a lack of funds in the Parks & Gardens Department.

Bone was also influenced by the policy directions of the Parks & Gardens Committee. In April 1952 the Committee reviewed the Square, on site, and concluded that “several trees in this square have long past their prime and are now of unsightly appearance ...” (ACC Parks & Gardens Committee Minutes 17 April 1952). It appears that Bone unsuccessfully used this recommendation to propose a major renovation to the Square’s landscape. As part of these works Bone first undertook an inventory of what trees existed in the Square. This list makes for interesting reading as it indicates what species Pelzer had left and additionally planted in the Square in the 1890s-1930s. Why they were removed is not stated but it may be a mixture of reasons: age, health, disruption to avenue in design, disruption to new water service works, etc. The specimens include 1 White Cedar (*Melia azedarach* var *australisca*), 15 Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*), 18 English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), 10 White Kurrajong (*Brachychiton discolor* 1 Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), 1 White Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), 4 Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*), 2 Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*), 2 Box Elder (*Acer negundo*), 5 Pepper Tree (*Schinus aerea* var *molle*), 3 Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), 2 Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), 2 Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), 2 Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*), 6 Southern Nettle (*Celtis australis*), 1 Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*) and 36 English Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) of which 2 English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), 2 Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*), 2 Box Elder (*Acer negundo*) and 2 Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) were recommended for felling and grubbing (ACC Archive, File 888/52, Report by Bone).

Bone was repeatedly influenced by the policy directions of the Parks & Gardens Committee. Again, in early 1953 the Committee undertook an on-site tour of each of the Square forming several recommendations as to tree, garden and lawn works. In terms of Hurtle Square, and following on from the above, the Committee concluded:

- *Restoration of some areas of the lawn and the top-dressing of the remainder was approved of in this Square, together with the removal of several trees past their prime, and the replacement of same with trees more suited to the environment.*
- *Trees to be removed are ... English Elm [Ulmus procera] 2 ... Aleppo Pine [Pinus halepensis] 2 ... Box Elder [Acer negundo] 2 ... Cypress [Cupressus sempervirens] 2 (ACC Parks & Gardens Committee Minutes 31 March 1953).*

These recommendations appear to have been actioned.

During 1966 the Corporation considered recommendations to change various street names in the municipality. Originally, Morphett Street in nomenclature terminated at Whitmore Square, and Brown Street continued between the Square and South Terrace. Originally, Pulteney Street physically and in nomenclature terminated at Hurtle Square, and Brown Street continued between the Square and South Terrace. This matter arose again in January 1967 when the Corporation was approving works to construct new fountains in Hindmarsh Square and Light Square wherein the Corporation considered naming these fountains Hanson and Brown respectively and to action the street name changes, with another option being that the new fountain proposed for Rymill Park be named the Sir Richard Hanson Fountain. In final deliberations the Corporation determined to proceed with the name changes and to erect plaques to honour Sir Richard Hanson and John Brown Esq in Hurtle and Whitmore Squares respectively (ACC Parks & Gardens Committee Minutes 23 January 1967; File No 2218/63, Docket No 2076A/27).

As part of the *City of Adelaide Heritage Study* (1981) the Squares and Park Lands were considered. The *Study* (1981) identified Hurtle Square (J&E LB.18), a Captain Cook’s Pine (*Araucaria columnaris*) specimen (J&E TA.26) located in the south-east quadrant of Hurtle Square, two mature Norfolk Island Pine (*Araucaria heterophylla*) specimens (J&E TA.27) located in the central Hurtle Square traffic islands, and four mature Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) specimens (J&E TA.28) located in the northern portion of Hurtle Square, three specimens of Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) as being worthy of heritage conservation measures.

In 1994 artist Stephen Bowers was commissioned by the Corporation to erect a sculptural installation in the north-west quadrant of the Square. Entitled *Untitled*, it consists of a ceramic birdbath incorporating a poem by John Bray.

In 2003 artist Anton Hart was commissioned by the Corporation to erect a sculptural installation on the intersection of Pulteney and Halifax Streets. Entitled *The Forest of Dreams*, it consists of four granite and corten steel installations bearing the words ‘the forest of dreams’ and was positioned on all four corners of the intersection.

During 2004-2005 the Pulteney streetscape received a renovation involving new foot paving, street trees, median and nature strip treatments, new furniture and seating, an new signage.

Amery (1997, p. 4; 2002, p. 270) proposed the toponym *Kadlitpinna*, ‘Captain Jack’, as the name for the Square honouring these Kauria elder. The name means *kadli*, ‘dingo; dog’, *itpinna*, ‘father of’. In considering the proposal in 2000 the Corporation however proposed and accepted the name *Tangkaira* to be applied to the Square, but has yet to formally adopt this name. *Kadlitpinna* was however applied to *Kadlitpinna*/Park 13 also known as Rundle Park. *Tangkaira* honours *Ityamaipinna*’s, or ‘King Rodney’s, wife *Tangkaira*, or ‘Charlotte’ from the Crystal Brook district (Gara 1990, p. 64; Amery 1991; Amery & Williams 2002, p. 272; Draper *et al* 2005, p. 47).