

### 3.0 ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AND SQUARES

#### 3.1.32 North Terrace Report



Image: Extract of the *North Terrace Urban Design Concept* by Taylor Cullity Lethlean (2001).

North Terrace

**Note:** North Terrace in this **Report** and **Assessment** exists of a tract of land contained within Karrawirra/Park 12 and Tandanya Womma/Park 26 extending from the Morphett Street Bridge eastwards along North Terrace to East Terrace. North Terrace west of the Morphett Street Bridge is included in the **Report** and **Assessment** for Tulya Wodli/Park 27 which is wherein it is formally managed presently by the Corporation.

Historical Overview: Site Context

North Terrace exists today as promenade that was not specifically envisaged by Colonel Light in his 1836 survey ‘Plan of Adelaide’. Certainly a wide road reserve for “North Terrace” was surveyed, but the notion of a ‘North Parade’ or ‘North Terrace Promenade’ or ‘Government Walk’ or ‘North Terrace Gardens’ as the lineal tract of land has colloquially and historically been known as was not formally envisaged to serve this role and function by Light. In terms of the function of the street, Light envisaged only the ‘civic’ functions of “Government House” and “Barracks” to be erected on the northern side of North Terrace. As a consequence, several changes to the functions on the flanks of North Terrace unfolded but the original survey width of the Terrace as a road reservation has not changed. The name “North Terrace” also exists on Light’s ‘Plan of Adelaide’ dated 1836 and was obviously accepted as a pre-determined street name.

In terms of the width of the road reservation and thereby the ‘North Terrace Promenade’, Light’s 1836 ‘Plan of Adelaide’ is unclear as to specific measurements of this ‘Terrace’. It was not until 1911 that Superintendent of Public Works, Charles Owen Smyth, in consultation with elder politician Sir Henry Ayers, clarified the actual measurements of the road reservation to be an overall 150 feet (45.72m) width of North Terrace from property line to property line of which the gardens were contained within this road reservation on the northern flank, that a clear government accepted surveying standard was adopted.

The colloquial nomenclature for North Terrace has historically included ‘North Parade’ or ‘North Terrace’ or ‘North Terrace Promenade’ or ‘Government Walk’ or ‘North Terrace Gardens’. Their period use has been used in the below text for authenticity purposes. ‘Prince Henry Gardens’, as a designation, only forms a portion of this ‘Promenade’ being the section between King William Street and Kintore Avenue.

In terms of this report, only that portion of North Terrace from Old Parliament House eastwards is considered. The section to the west of Old Parliament House was historically part of the Corporation’s Cattle and Market Yards within Tulya Wodli/Park 27 before their use ceased and the state Government reclaimed legislatively the land for use as use as railway station and rail marshalling yards. For a discussion on the tract of North Terrace west of the Morphett Street Bridge the reader should consult the Narnungga/Park 25 and Tulya Wodli/Park 27 **Reports** and **Assessments**.



Figure  
Plan of “North Terrace” as portrayed in the ‘Plan of the City of Adelaide 1836’ as prepared by Colonel Light.  
Source: ACC Archive.

Historical Overview: Aboriginal Associations

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

Many of these associations specifically pertain the movements of Indigenous peoples to and from government activities and functions along North Terrace in the 1830s-1880s, and these associations are discussed in detail in Jones (2004, 2007), Bruce Harry & Associates (1992), Aitken Morris & Jones (2006), Draper *et al* (2005) and Hemming (1998) as they relate to the Government House Domain, the University of Adelaide, the former Adelaide Teachers College land, the Adelaide Botanic Garden, and North Terrace generally.

Apart from Government House, the location outside Government House in ‘Prince Henry Gardens’ has two associations. The first is a personal association by Aboriginal activist Kevin Buzzacott and Kurna dissident Joseph Williams that occurred in 2000 when a protest camp was established in the Gardens with a campfire. This association reputedly has political significance rather than cultural significance. The second association is the use of the corner as a gathering point for Candle Light Walks and has notionally been called the “Genocide Corner Camp.” The site also carries meaning as the gathering point for the Ngarrindjeri to re-present the “missing” 1923 Ngarrindjeri petition on the Stolen Generation to the state Governor, and the site of the Ngarrindjeri declaration of “Dominion” to the South Australian government (Draper *et al* 2005, p. 37).

The plaques along North Terrace recognise several Aboriginals or people who assisted the South Australian Aboriginal cause. These include investor George Fife Angas who supported Aboriginal rights; artist George French Angas who depicted Aboriginal life in his paintings; Charles Duguid who established the Ernabella mission in the Pitjantjatjara lands; state Premier Don Dunstan who contributed to the establishment of the Aboriginal Lands Trust and to Pitjantjatjara land rights; Kurna Elder Gladys Elphick who promoted Aboriginal rights including the establishment of the first Aboriginal health service; Alfred Gerard who gave land to the Aboriginal people in the Riverland; artist Samuel Thomas Gill who also painted numerous Aboriginal people; tracker Jimmy James; anthropologists Charles Mountford and Norman Tindale who recorded information about Aboriginal culture; and, David Unaipon who was a

Ngarrindjeri leader, musician, philosopher and inventor (Department of Education & Children's Services 2002, p. 29).

### Historical Overview: Post-Contact Associations

The first structures on the north side of North Terrace were the Government House domain consisting primarily of the House itself and associated service outbuildings. As part of the works, contractors John Williams and Robert Palmer in 1849-50 constructed a random rubble wall along the North Terrace frontage with sandstone sourced from the former Torrens Parade Ground quarry. This walling encompassed the whole of the Government House reserve, or Domain, but progressively parts of the wall were demolished, replaced, repaired, or the wall was re-aligned resulting in new construction materials. The red brick Kintore Avenue wall was constructed by RJ Nurse in 1937, and the North Terrace wall was reconstructed by builders Hansen & Yuncken in 1987 recycling the original sandstone as much as possible (Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 252-254).

Up until 1843 the five members of the colony's Legislative Council met at the Government House for their meetings. But following the gazettal of an *Act* "... for the better government of South Australia", passed by the British parliament in 1843, plans were placed in train for the erection of a suitable parliament house structure. This comprises sections of the present Old Parliament House today which date from 1843. The *Act* increased Legislative Council membership from 5 to 11 and required that the proceedings be open to the public thus necessitating a public gallery for the Legislative Council chamber. Builder Jacob Pitman was contracted in July 1843 to commence construction works that were finished that October in time for the first session of the new Legislative Council on 10 October 1843.

Additional amendments to the *Australian Colonies Government Act* of 1850 expanded the membership to 16 elected members and 8 Crown nominees thus necessitating consideration of a larger more commodious structure. A design competition was commissioned in 1851, won by Bennett Hayes before his appointment as Colonial Architect on 1 January 1852, whereupon he was requested to prepare plans for a larger structure which was completed by 1855 under the care of contractors English & Brown. With the gazettal of a new colonial constitution in June 1856 a lower house chamber was established. The venue for this new chamber was substantially on the site of the original structure and contractor IW Perryman completed both works by the opening of the colony's first bicameral parliament on 22 April 1857 using similar limestone to that used on the Institute Building. The 1864 Library was added using Dry Creek stone, with additions to the south-west front being constructed of Mitcham sandstone in 1876. During 1874 architect EJ Woods undertook modifications to the structures to insert ventilation systems, and plans were first mooted for the complete demolition of the Old Parliament House following completion of works to create a new parliament house structure. War and the economy stifled the eventuality of the latter plan, but the Legislative Council used the old House of Assembly Chamber from 1894 to 1939, and during World War II it was used as an RAAF recruiting office. Additional modifications were undertaken during the 1970s and 1978-80 to enable its conversion to a Constitutional Museum which has been since closed (Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 245-246).



Figure

A water-colour painting by Samuel T Gill in 1845 entitled 'North Terrace, Adelaide, looking south-east from Government House Guardhouse'. The water-colour depicts a very early scene of North Terrace with timber post and single railings protecting what appears to be a pedestrian promenade where Prince Henry's Garden exists today. Source: Appleyard *et al* 1986, p. 15).

Recognition of the poor 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 priority task upon his appointment was the condition of Victoria Square and he indicates little concern to North Terrace until 1866 when complaints about the condition of the North Terrace gardens started being published in the local newspapers. His dilemma was that the "North Terrace Gardens" were not under Corporation control, were still legally part of the Adelaide Park Lands that colonial Governor Gawler had purchased, and management of these Gardens as a consequence were still under colonial Government control. It was only until 1911 that local and state jurisdictions were resolved and the management responsibility for the 'North Terrace Gardens' formally transfer to the Corporation for and on behalf of the state. This is an important point to recognise. However, the public did not understand this jurisdictional difference, and perhaps because of the gardening work that O'Brien undertook for the Corporation O'Brien, personally, inadvertently became the target for criticism in the local newspapers:

*The North Parade [Terrace] from Government House to the hospital is in such a disgraceful state of neglect that I am frequently spoken to about planting and putting it in order as they fancy it belongs to the Corporation and is in my charge. I am subject to many reproaches. I would therefore suggest that the council might arrange for the government to take it themselves and have it planted and put in proper order; it would then be the most beautiful promenade in the city (Mayoral Reports 8 April 1866).*

As a consequence, tree planting in the 1850s was austere. Some avenue plantings of Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) occurred in the mid 1850s with the main plantation strips being fenced and sown with lawn. In the late 1850s the first Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) and English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) were planted on North Terrace in front of the Adelaide Hospital. Plantings of *Eucalyptus* ssp and Aleppo Pines (*Pinus halepensis*) occurred in the 1860s around the Institute Building following its construction but the plantation between the Institute Building and the Hospital was largely, as latter recalled by the Superintendent of Public Works Charles Owen Smyth, a “paddock of barley grass, enclosed by broomstick-handle fencing until the 1870s.” An avenue of Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*), outside Government House was removed in the early 1870s, and in 1876 the large Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) were felled and grubbed (Sierp 1969; de la Motte 1980, p. 5; Smyth 1923, p. 9b-c).

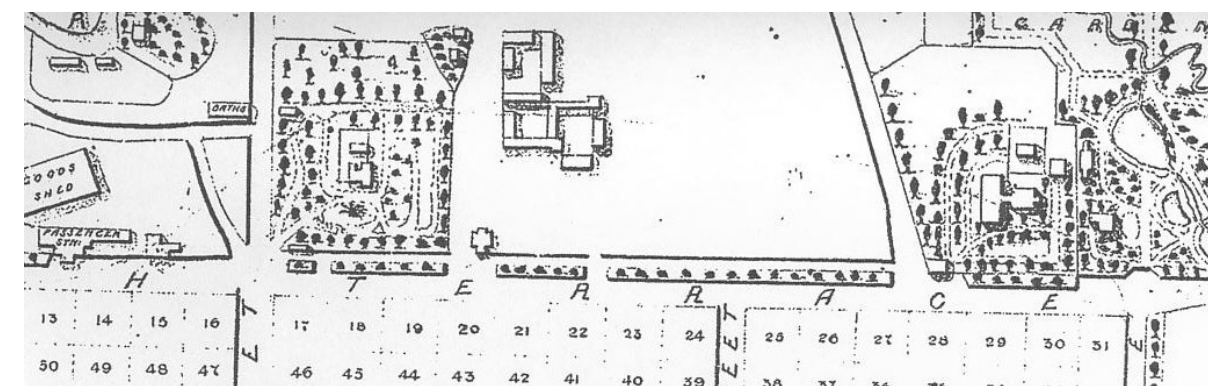
In conjunction with extension works to the Government House in 1855-56 a new guardhouse complex was erected to a design by architects English & Brown. Stone was again sourced from the former Torrens Parade Ground quarry for the guardhouse and works on the House. The guardhouse and gates were removed and rebuilt in 1874 as part of land excision decisions that enabled the widening of King William Road. The main structure largely remained but the associated loggia and fencing structure were reconstructed. Contractor AG Chapman used the original stone and materials as much as possible and added Dry Creek stone (Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 252-253).

The Institute Building today dominates a key tract of North Terrace. The origins of the building lie in the establishment of the South Australian Library and Scientific Association in 1834 following the gazettal of the act to establish the Province of South Australia by the British parliament. In 1844 the South Australian Subscription Library was formed, the two societies merged in 1848 to form the South Australian Subscription Library and Mechanics Institute but this merger failed to realise a viable entity. In 1855 the *South Australian Institute Act of 1855* was passed resulting in a formal structure under the colonial government auspices, and by 1859 colonial architect Edward Angus Hamilton had been instructed to select a suitable site and prepare a design to house the Institute and its library collection. Hamilton proposed a site in the hollow adjacent to the old railway site, but parliamentarian Milne proposed the current site on the corner of Kintore Avenue in 1859. The motion being put and passed, contractor William Lines immediately commenced on the foundations of a design prepared by architects English & Brown that eventually cost £4,839. Sir Charles Cooper opened the first or southern stage of the building on 29 January 1861, and the second or northern stage was eventually completed in 1906 under the supervision of Superintendent of Public Works Charles Owen Smyth. The design used mixed Venetian and Grecian architectural styles with a Doric column supported portico. In 1874, a colonial commission determined, after reviewing the premises, that it had outgrown its accommodation recommending the establishment of separate library, art gallery and museum functions and structures on North Terrace but that its cultural teaching activities could be accommodated (Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 260-261).

In 1856 artist Christopher Hill first proposed the establishment of an art gallery and a South Australian Society for the Arts. The latter was established and took residence in the Institute Building before it was relocated in 1882 into the Jervois Wing of the State Library, thence the former Exhibition Building, before the state government acceded to construct a proper gallery upon receiving a bequest from Sir Thomas Elder of £25,000 in 1898 for this purpose. The main gallery was opened on 7 April 1899 by state Governor Lord Tennyson based upon design ideas of the Society curator HP Gill and the Superintendent of Public Works Charles Owen Smyth. Contractor NW Trudgeon commenced works in 1898 and Auburn stone and Murray Bridge freestone were employed. But this structure, the Elder Wing, lacked the present aesthetic embellishments and these came as a result of a donation by Alexander Melrose in 1936 of £10,000 which subsidized the doubling of the Gallery size, the new façade and vestibule and the

Melrose Wing. These works were supervised by AE Simpson, and opened in 1937. The north wing was opened in 1962 by state Premier Sir Thomas Playford. The overall building was upgraded in 1978-79 (Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 265-266).

Interestingly, until 1911 the ‘North Terrace Gardens’ were under the control of the colonial Public Buildings department and thereby Charles Owen Smyth, and not the Corporation. This problem of management was finally recognised with attempts to landscape the Terrace in front of the Jubilee Exhibition Building by the Corporation in 1886, and was not resolved until 1911 when this part of the “Park Land” was vested in the care and management of the Corporation. This is an important element in understanding the condition and quality of the Terrace until the 1910s. Despite this issue, it is clear that because of the uncertainty as to management ‘ownership’ of the Terrace in the 1860s City Gardener William O’Brien simply assumed, like the rest of the Corporation, that it was Corporation land to care, plant and manage. Accordingly, O’Brien sought to plant trees in the Terrace under his tenure as City Gardener but subsequent City Gardener, William Pengilly, appears not to have cared for the Terrace. The latter may also be due to the roles John Ednie Brown and George Goyder had in the Crown Lands Department in the late 1870s and into the 1880s, and the succession of Charles Owen Smyth to the position of Superintendent of Public Buildings which he held until 1923. Accordingly, it is valuable to consider what O’Brien was planting during these years as an indicator of the visual evidence of past vegetation plantings in the Terrace illustrated in photographs.



Figure

Extract of a plan of North Terrace from a ‘Plan of Adelaide’ prepared by the Corporation’s City Surveyors Office, 11 February 1865, depicting the original width of the Light surveyed “North Terrace” and the intrusions into this road reservation by the railway station portico (to the left), the plantation on the north side of North Terrace that indicates a formal repetitive line of trees, and the Adelaide Hospital and Adelaide Botanic Garden properties which both intrude into the original survey line and width of “North Terrace”. Source: ACC Archive.

In August 1867 O’Brien wrote to Mayor Henry Fuller advising of extensive tree planting works that were carried out over the previous autumn planting season under his care. The list is extensive and valuable to consider. Further, O’Brien records where these specimens were being generally planted but unfortunately not the specific details of these plantings per place. Specimens included “Laurels [*Laurus nobilis*; 249 in number], Oleanders [*Nerium oleander*; 216], Moreton Bay Figs [*Ficus macrophylla*; 6], China Privet [*Ligustrum lucidum*; 21], Stone Pines [*Pinus pinea*; 78], Native Pines [*Callitris/Casuarina/Allocasuarina* ssp; 1,627], Cupressus [*Cupressus* ssp; 24], White Cedar [*Melia azedarach* var *australis*; 12], Gums [*Eucalyptus/Corymbia* ssp; 4,450], Poplars [*Populus* ssp; 100], Olives [*Olea europaea*; 10,600], Ficus [*Ficus* ssp; 99], Oaks [*Quercus* ssp; 280], Laurestinas [sic; *Viburnum tinus*; 149], Laburnums [*Laburnum x watereri*; 48], Sycamors [sic; *Platanus* ssp; 48], Elms [*Ulmus* ssp; 6], Walnuts [*Juglans regia*; 24], Pomegranates [*Punica granatum*; 2], Ash [*Fraxinus* ssp; 50], Aristolochias [*Aristolochia* ssp; 74]. Evergreen Oaks [*Quercus ilex*; 24], Whitethorn [*Crataegus monogyna*; 30], Acacias [*Acacia/Robinia* ssp; 14], Ches[t]nuts [*Castanea sativa*;

18], also, about one thousand willow [*Salix* ssp] and poplar [*Populus* ssp] cuttings, making a grand total of about 19,249 plants.” In addition, O’Brien records donations of an unspecified number poplar (*Populus* ssp), rose (*Rosa* ssp), herbaceous plants and bulbs, willow (*Salix* ssp), bamboo (*Bambusa* ssp), privet (*Ligustrum* ssp), weeping willows (*Salix babylonica*), and five mulberries (*Morus* ssp) from various individuals. These were planted in various locations throughout the municipality including along “Both sides of the River Torrens” from Albert Bridge to the Weir (Karrawirra/Park 12 and Tarndanya Womma/Park 26); along East, West, North and South Terraces; along the “North Terrace Esplanade”; in the East Park Lands (Kadlitpinna/Park 13, Mullawirraburka/Park 14, Ityamaitpinna/Park 15); in Tarndanyangga/Victoria, Hindmarsh and Light Squares; along Unley Road through the Park Lands (Pityarrilla/Park 19 and Kurrangga/Park 20); along the Slaughterhouse Road (Tulya Wodli/Park 27); behind the Cattle Yards in North Terrace adjoining the River (Tulya Wodli/Park 27); and, “19 native pines” to surround the house at the “old Botanic Gardens” (Tainmundilla/Park 11) (Letter from W O’Brien to the Mayor, 19 August 1867; ACC Archives).

This is an important inventory as it presents the most detailed account of the great number of trees that O’Brien was planting but also the typical species he was seeking to establish in the late 1860s in the municipality and the Park Lands. His preference was clearly towards a mixture of indigenous British and Mediterranean species, but interestingly demonstrates a strong overall preference to Australian native species including “Pines [*Pinus* ssp] ... [and] Gums [*Eucalyptus* ssp].” Unfortunately where these specimens are being planted is unclear but it is known that O’Brien was planting shelterbelts or avenues of *Eucalyptus* ssp along the entrance roadways, through the Park Lands, including “both sides of Unley Road” (Pityarrilla/Park 19 and Kurrangga/Park 20), to the municipality. The other important point is that a large number of Olive (*Olea europaea*) trees are being planted, and O’Brien mentions the East Park Lands (Kadlitpinna/Park 13, Mullawirraburka/Park 14, Ityamaitpinna/Park 15) and the Slaughterhouse Road (Tulya Wodli/Park 27) as planting venues without stating the species. It is very likely, given the age of tree specimens in these areas today, that this was when the majority of these Olive (*Olea europaea*) were planted in these two areas but there was no reference to Olives (*Olea europaea*) being planted on the “North Terrace Esplanade” (Letter from W O’Brien to the Mayor, 19 August 1867; ACC Archives).

Accordingly, what was planted in the North Terrace plantation by O’Brien in the late 1860s is unclear, together with numbers of species, spatial patterns and where. What is clear is that by 1865, as indicated in the ‘Plan of Adelaide’ prepared by the Corporation’s City Surveyor’s Office, that there was an established tree plantation along North Terrace, between King William Road and the Adelaide Hospital. Further, that by 1872 the director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden, Dr Richard Schomburgk, had been placed in charge of the management of this reserve. This tract of land is now known as ‘Prince Henry Gardens’ and the ‘North Terrace Promenade’. The rationale behind making Schomburgk manager of ‘Government Plantations’ from 1872 to 1882 is unclear, but as he was subservient to Surveyor-General George Goyder it may have come about from Goyder’s directions. But this appointment formally reclaimed the responsibility for the curatorship of the ‘North Terrace Promenade’ away from the Corporation to a state government instrumentality. Schomburgk does not explain the appointment but applies the new title when reviewing the “progress and condition of the ... Government Plantations” in his *Annual Reports* and when discussing the management of the ‘North Terrace and Bowden Plantations’ generally in his *Annual Reports*. Bowden refers to land within Port Road in Bowden.

In 1872 Schomburgk recorded the “plantations along the North-terrace ... have made progress in their growth” but that the “roughs and boys” have a great propensity to “damaging ... the leaders of the avenue trees, just as they overtop the tree guards.” This *Annual Report* implies that Schomburgk may have been responsible for planting avenues of trees in the plantation in 1872, no species and number being specified, possibly replacing what ever O’Brien had planted. In

1874 Schomburgk recorded the “luxuriant growth of the trees” in the plantation between the King William Road and Kintore Avenue, aided by a police guard at the Government House Domain gatehouse, but lamented the vandalism in the other area resulting in the replanting of 60 to 80 specimens over the last 3 years; “I fear I shall never succeed in this part of the terrace in growing trees successfully.” Vandalism was a constant theme in Schomburgk’s *Annual Reports* from 1872 to 1882 for these plantations. Clearly the frustration of this vandalism forced him to relinquish his management responsibility to the Crown Lands Department under Charles Owen Smyth (Schomburgk 1872, p. 4; 1873, p. 6; 1874, p. 8; 1878, p. 10; 1879, p. 11; 1880, 9; 1881, p. 15).

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 in the North Terrace plantation but does not indicate where and numbers planted, and it is also possible that he was in fact referring to the tract of North Terrace road reservation in front of the Corporation’s Cattle and Market Yards in Tulya Wodli/Park 27. Italian olive (*Olea europaea*) propagation expert Paolo 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 groves “between the Port and Slaughterhouse Roads and Sheep Market” in Tulya Wodli/Park 27, adjacent to West Terrace (Wikparndo/Park 22, Wirranendi/Park 23, and Tambawodli/Park 24), 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 and Bakkabakkandi/Park 16, and the existence of “two plantations between Walkerville and River Torrens” in Kuntingga/Park 7 and Barnguttilla/Park 8. In this report there was no reference to Olives (*Olea europaea*) being grown in the ‘North Terrace Esplanade’ (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).

As indicated earlier, the Institute building was increasing becoming over-crowded with its collections and its use in the early 1870s. part of this shortage of accommodation space, the Institute called a design competition in 1873 for a new Institute building and a Museum. While the commission concluded that these two functions should be split, architect Robert George Thomas won the competition and his plans were placed in the hands of colonial architect George Thomas Light and his assistant architect William McMinn. The foundations for the Jervois Wing of the Mortlock Library of South Australia were laid in 1873, re-laid in 1876, prologued by political debate about siting, use and costs, plans modified by Light and McMinn and later Edward John Woods, before the Wing was completed and opened on 18 December 1884. The wing was erected to Thomas’ design including the eastern wing of the structure with the overall structure stretching eastwards towards the present Mitchell Building of the University of Adelaide. The architectural style was Romanesque, and executed in Sydney freestone for bands and columns and the darker Manoora stone. In 1984 the Jervois wing underwent renovations supervised by Danvers Architects and the complex was re-opened as the ‘Mortlock Library of South Australiana’ in mid 1986 (Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 262-263).

The *University of Adelaide Act* was assented to in 1874 and as part of this *Act* the colonial government agreed to allocate land in the Park Lands to accommodate this institution. The present land, encompassing the Mitchell Building across to the Bonython Building was allocated. The Mitchell Building was first erected, following a design competition which architect James McGeorge won, but second place winner Melbourne-based architect Michael Egan was placed in charge of the project and had to immediately modify his design to accommodate the £11,000 available construction budget before Edward John Woods and William McMinn were appointed

advising architects to the University committee. McMinn again modified the design, changed the style to “modern Gothic”, cost was projected at £23,000 and the winning tender went to contractors Brown & Thompson at £24,736. The foundation stone was laid in 1879, stone dressings of Sydney sandstone with walls of pick-dressed Tea Tree Gully freestone. Classes commenced in the building in March 1881. The stone and wrought iron fence and walling in front of the Mitchell Building was erected at the same time to designs by Woods and McMinn (Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 267-268).

The ‘Esplanade’ is an interesting term. It was first coined and used by the Superintendent of Public Buildings, Charles Owen Smyth, and it was different from the term ‘Government Walk’ that was officially used in 1885 onwards, both of which have lapsed today into the generic titles of simply ‘North Terrace’ or the ‘North Terrace Promenade’. In 1923, writing a retrospective article, Owen Smyth defined the ‘Esplanade’ as:

*... the space bounded on the north by the alignment of the southern wall of Government House Domain running east as far as the Botanic Garden main entrance, and on the south by the southern fences of resent enclosing the grass plots. The narrow footpath south of this fence was formed by the City Council; and can, I presume, be dispended with by the same authority if some additional feet be required to widen the wheeled traffic thoroughfare* (Owen Smyth, 1929, p. 9).

Thus, Owen Smyth defined the North Terrace ‘promenade’ as the land on the north side of North Terrace from King William Road to the Botanic Garden.

Owen Smyth recalled that in 1876, when he was appointed to the colonial Works & Buildings Department that the North Terrace plantation consisted of:

*... some odd tussocks of barley grass and a few pines (Hallipensis) [Pinus halepensis], with numberless old tins, bones, bunch papers, &c., adorned the landscape. From the Hospital main entrance to the Botanic Gardens entrance were some fine specimens of Moreton Bay fig [Ficus macrophylla] trees, which took precious good care that nothing green grew under their umbrageous foliage. There was some dilapidated old broom stick handle fencing in parts. I believe at the time I first remember the Esplanade it was under the care (sic) of the Curator of the Botanic Gardens. The pine, I believe, owed their existence to the Botanic Gardens guardianship. Later, Mr. Ednie Brown, sometime Curator of Forests, took charge, and planted a few sugar gums [Eucalyptus cladocalyx]; but in neither instance was the ground dug up or ploughed. The limestone showed on the surface, so that one can easily be persuaded to believe that the results did not add much to the beauty of the Esplanade [sic] (Owen Smyth 1923, p. 9).*

Upon Sir Samuel Davenport’s prompting, Owen Smyth was encouraged to act on the North Terrace ‘Esplanade’. Owen Smyth claims to have shifted “some 200 men” onto the ‘Esplanade’, under the care of Foreman Williams, who obviously gained Owen Smyth’s favour, as he served for many years as the Department’s ‘Outdoor City Foreman’. The works on North Terrace included the relocation of mature 50 year old date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*.) from Dr Mayo’s residence in Adelaide necessitating 22 men per palm to excavate and shift each specimen, and holes 3.6m x 1.8m deep being dug in the ‘Esplanade’ to accommodate these typical instant Late Victorian styled tree specimens. Owen Smyth claims to have lost only one specimen in this transportation project “undertaken by the Works and Buildings Department”, and planted the grounds surrounding each specimen with “Italian rye” (Owen Smyth 1923, p. 9).

*Later, year by year, as money was available and approved, the present lawns were made, new earth and manure applied, and a level, smooth surface obtained, in which couch grass was planted. Year by year ornamental trees also were planted. One row of elms [Ulmus procera] ... [are] all alive, just outside the Government House domain south wall. The ivy on the said wall was also planted and continued down Kintore avenue on the east, but people passing to and from North Adelaide, by the parade Ground, so*

*illused the ivy that it was taken up. The large Moreton Bay fig-trees [Ficus macrophylla] opposite the late Sir Henry Ayers’s house on North Terrace were not only too large in their habit for the position, but they were dirty, shedding leaves and figs, and also preventing the growth of a nice row of elms near the Hospital fence, and making it impossible to have a lawn. So the order went forth, and early—indeed, very early—one fine morning, those huge figtrees lay low [sic.] (Owen Smyth 1923, p. 9).*

This is a critical insight as to the state of the plantation, albeit a recollection in 1923. But it does record the poor condition and state of North Terrace in the 1870s and the problems both Owen Smyth and Schomburgk were faced with. There is no record of the involvement of John Ednie Brown being engaged in plantings on the North Terrace plantation in Woods & Forests Department records. It also gives an insight into what conditions faced Owen Smyth when in 1886 he was appointed ‘Permanent Head’ of the Works & Buildings Department and had to deal with the impending 1887 Jubilee Exhibition project that prompted a major “scheme for cleaning up the Esplanade, with a view to eventually turning it into a pleasure” (Owen Smyth 1923, p. 9).

In typical Owen Smyth candour, he cared little for public disclaim about the removal of the Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*), seeking their strategic felling at the early hours of the morning. They were felled by “a large gang of men ... before a deputation could be formed. Once they were down I cared little, as I was working in the interests of the general public ...” (Owen Smyth 1923, p.9).

Owen Smyth cared little for aesthetic improvements to his ‘Esplanade’ except in terms of tree planting. His Department did not undertaken flower bed planting, and did not undertake rock garden establishment. It was probably this civic disdain and the nearby large scale garden and civic improvements by Pelzer on Corporation land that enabled the transfer of the land from the state Labour government to the Corporation in 1911. It was also carried out administratively while Owen Smyth was away on leave overseas in the early part of 1911. During this time Owen Smyth also unravelled, with the assistance of Sir Henry Ayers, some anomalies in the dimensions of the ‘Esplanade’ and the encroachment of various government and university structures and fencing onto the overall 150 feet (45.72m) width of North Terrace from property line to property line (Owen Smyth 1923, p. 9).



Figure  
Extract from the lithograph perspective of the City of Adelaide as published in the *Australasian Sketcher* 10 July 1875, looking northwards along North Terrace. The new railway station with rail marshalling yards are clear in the middle left with an established tree plantation between the railway station and West Terrace evident in the lithograph and this is possibly the Olive (*Olea europaea*) plantings reputedly undertaken by City Gardener William Pengilly. To the east of the railway station is the semi-rectangular extensively planted Government Domain with its Government House and an open expanse possibly defined by a post and rail fence in front, and a dual avenue of shelterbelt trees further eastwards between the University of Adelaide's Mitchell Building and Frome Road intersection today. Source: ACC Archive.



Figure  
A black and white photograph by 'landscape photographer' Captain William Sweet taken in c.1881 looking eastwards along North Terrace from the King William Street intersection. Note the three timber rail and post fencing to the left defining the roadway and the plantation that today forms the Prince Henry Garden. Source: Pike & Moore 1983.



Figure  
A black and white photograph by 'landscape photographer' Captain William Sweet in c.1876 looking at the original Adelaide Railway Station with its clock, stone portico with accompanying cast-iron portico flanks, and stone guttering and kerbing. Source: Pike & Moore 1983.



Figure

A black and white photograph by 'landscape photographer' Captain William Sweet in c.1876 looking at the westwards from the Pulteney Street intersection. Note the three-rail semi-picket white painted timber fencing to the right demarking the roadway and the 'plantation'. Source: Pike & Moore 1983.



Figure

A black and white photograph by 'landscape photographer' Captain William Sweet in c.1880 looking northwards over the Government House domain, probably taken from the roof of the Adelaide Club building. Note the three-rail semi-picket white painted timber fencing to the right demarking the roadway and the 'plantation' and the timber picket tree guards protecting the trees that Schomburgk sought to establish. Source: Pike & Moore 1983.



Figure

A black and white photograph by 'landscape photographer' Captain William Sweet in c.1876 looking at the original Adelaide Club facade with the 'ritchety' three-rail semi-picket white painted timber fencing in the foreground demarking the roadway and the 'plantation'. Source: Pike & Moore 1983.

In commissioning John Ednie Brown to prepare a *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands* (1880), under Mayor William Bunday, there was no attempt to include 'North Terrace Promenade' in this investigation. This perhaps indicates the quality of landscape that was extant in the Terrace that O'Brien and Owen Smyth had established (Brown 1880; Plan of City of Adelaide, 11 February 1865, ACC Archives).

Despite this, new street tree plantings occurred along North Terrace in the 1880-81, but mainly as street trees along the southern side. Some tree planting occurred following the construction of the Jervois wing to the Museum in 1884. In 1884 Dr Mayo donated four Date Palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) from his west Adelaide property to the Museum, and these were positioned in its forecourt of which only two of the present four are original specimens from Dr Mayo's garden (Owen Smyth 1923, p. 9b-c).

In 1880 a model of a statue of Queen Victoria was erected at the junction of North Terrace with King William Street. Measuring 3.6m high and erected on a pedestal of a height of 5.4m, the model was prepared by "eminent sculptor" Marshall Woods to depict what the final version might look like. The representation of Queen Victoria featured the monarch at the opening of the Imperial Parliament in all her regal robes. The model was unveiled on 8 October 1880 amidst much public "satisfaction, and the usual demonstrations of loyalty". The model prompted the move to call for public subscriptions and a colonial government matching subscription to enable the purchase of a final statue that was eventually located in Tarndanyangga/Victoria Square (*Annual Report* 1880-81, p. 111).

In the 1880s ‘advancement’ works and cultural exhibitions were important statements of the ‘advancement’ of the colony and the city. The 1880 Exhibition of Arts and Industries involved considerable Corporation attention and investment. The latter Exhibition was considerably over-shadowed by the Jubilee International Exhibition of Arts and Industries held in 1886-1887 that celebrated 150 years of advancement of the colony of South Australia. Both events were principally held in the old Exhibition Building on North Terrace together with its grounds to the north including sections of the former Royal Agricultural & Horticultural Society grounds now occupied by the universities of Adelaide and South Australia (*Annual Report* 1880-81, pp. 28-31; 1884-85, pp. 9-12).

In 1884 the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery formerly came into existence as legal land entities removing all their functions and collections from the Institute Building under *Act* 296 of 1883-84 as defined in Schedule 2 comprising 1.32ha. The School of Design continued its classes within the Institute Building until 1909 when these functions were transferred to the education Department (Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 260-261).

In 1883, following a fractious argument between the Corporation, Mayor Edwin Smith, John Ednie Brown and the City Gardener William Pengilly over the latter’s planting methods and species being used, the Corporation determined to sack Pengilly, and therein had a serious of City Gardeners until such time as August Pelzer (1862-1934) was appointed City Gardener (1899-1932) in mid 1899.

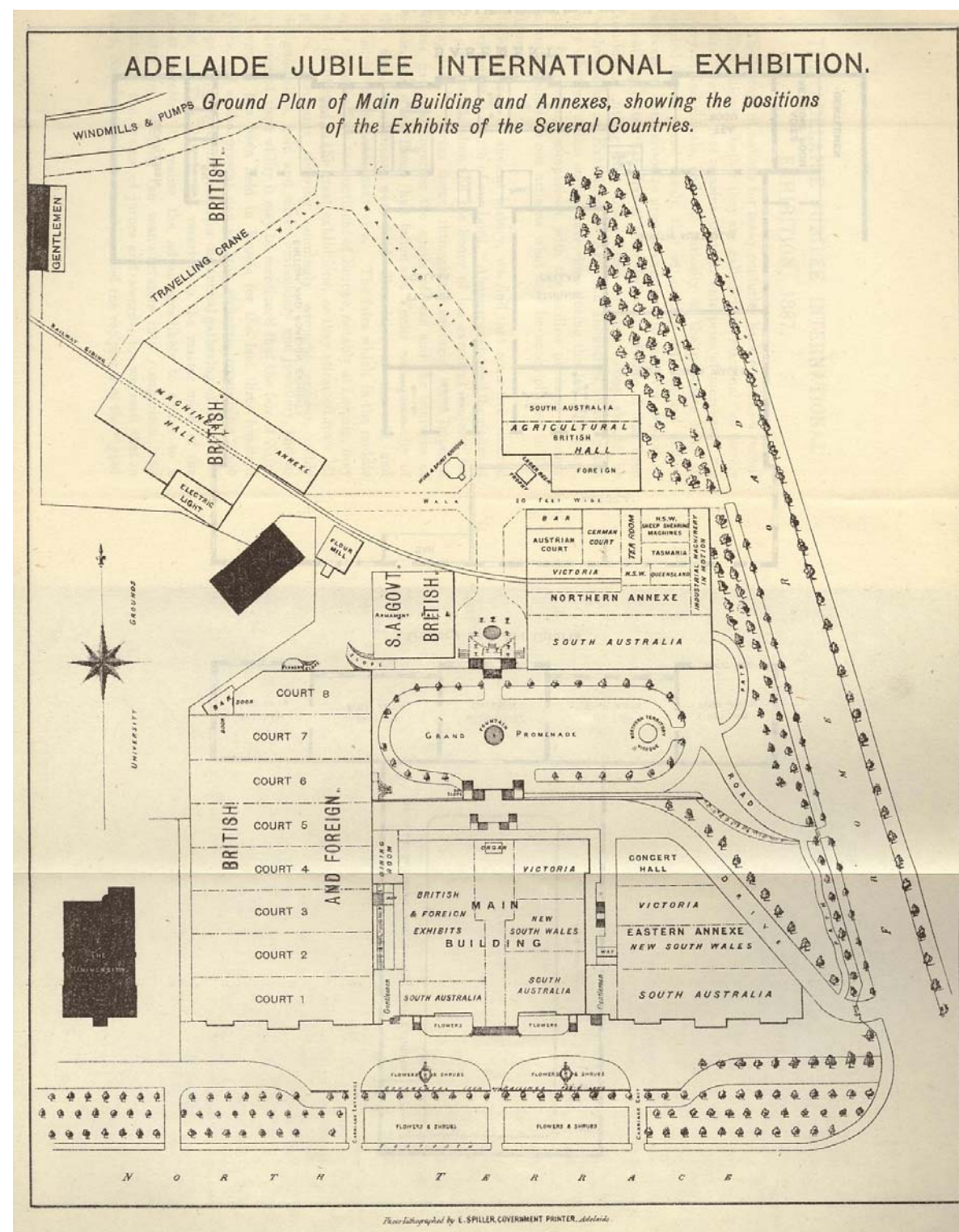
As part of the celebrations of the colony’s Jubilee in 1885, the colonial Government orchestrated the Adelaide International Exhibition. The Jubilee recognised the arrival of the first “vessel for the colonization” on 27 July 1835, and the “proclamation establishing a British Colony in South Australia” on 28 December 1835. As part of these celebrations the Government enacted the *Jubilee Exhibition Act, 1883*, but was subsequently voted out of office by a vehement rural voting gerrymander, and the *Act* was repealed. Not to be deterred, the Exhibition’s proponents succeeded in enacting the *Jubilee Exhibition Act, 1885, No 351*, to “acquire and dedicate” land on the eastern side of Frome Road, and the lower portion of the present University of Adelaide, comprising some 7.48ha, together with 3.2ha on the “upper level” along North Terrace with this land described in the *Act*’s Schedule 1. The land selection followed the recommendations of a Royal Commission set up in 1883 “to make arrangements for the international exhibition to be held in Adelaide” that considered nine sites three of which were in the Park Lands (Daly 1987, pp. 55-56; (*Annual Report* 1884-85, pp. 9-12).

A key feature of the *Jubilee Exhibition Act 1885* was the designation of the ‘Government Walk’ as a concept and a major promenade space. This was the first legislative endorsement of the cultural significance and role of North Terrace. The matter was brought into debate by the spatial designation of the Exhibition site as being defined as land “North of a portion of the northern side of North-terrace” enabling a fence to be erected to define this area. The problem was that this designation, and proposed fence, would deny the “public ... of the pleasant promenade they had enjoyed for very many years.” The colonial government established a Special Committee to consider the matter, and the Committee determined “that although “Government Walk” had been declared “a public place,” no transference of power to exercise any right or title to it had been made in favour of ...” the Corporation. Thus, the Corporation had been developing and maintaining the North Terrace promenade space for many years but the colonial government determined that ownership nor management responsibility of this stretch of land had not been vested in the Corporation. Mayor Edwin Smith sought to immediately resolve this dilemma “amicably” (*Annual Report* 1885-86, p. 57).

His summation of this dilemma was that the evidence of the width and role of North Terrace as a public promenade was described in several historical documents:

... on the plan marked “Provincial Survey A,” signed “Wm. Light, Surveyor-General,” and countersigned “J.H. Fisher, Colonial Commissioner,” and dated “1837,” without at once acknowledging that the correct and true width of North-terrace is 150 feet [45.72m]. No public mention can be found of “Government Walk” until 1845, when the Gazette notice was given that “Government Walk” was 43 feet [13.10m] wide. Even the locality of this walk is not there given, but as it has been known to exist on the northern side of North-terrace, and has been used by the public ever since as in that locality, there can be no doubt the Council is right as to the situation of this “public place.” The plans drawn in 1845, and signed by Governor Robe (as “approved”) and Capt. Frome, indicate a place north of North-terrace, but there is no name defining the thing. It may, however, I think, be accepted as indicating this walk. The same plans are also signed in 1850 by Capt. Freeling and “W.T. O’Halloran, clerk of Council,” as “laid before the Council of Government, and approved.” These plans do not, according to the scale on them, give the width either of the terrace or the walk as the same in breadth which the Council claim them to be respectively [sic.] (*Annual Report* 1885-86, pp. 57-58).

This is an important quotation as it clearly articulates the legal dimensions of the North Terrace promenade that was the cause of much discussion between the Corporation and the colonial government, but it also re-affirms that the land was part of the Park Lands.



Figure

The plan from *South Australia in 1887: A Handbook for the Adelaide Jubilee International Exhibition* compiled by HJ Scott on behalf of the Royal Commission for the Jubilee International Exhibition 1887 as chaired by Sir Samuel Davenport as Executive Commissioner. Note the design for the North Terrace Promenade that includes two rectangular quadrants for “flowers & shrubs”, the regimented tree plantings for elsewhere in the Promenade, an “ornamental iron railings” fence 422’0” (128.6m) long, and within the Exhibition property two “fountains” surrounded by “flowers & shrubs”. Of these two fountains, one is in Creswell Gardens and the other is in Rundle Mall opposite Adelaide Arcade today. The larger fountain, to the north of the Building, has disappeared. All three fountains were donated to the Exhibition by their English manufacturer. Note also the extant tree plantings along Frome Road. Source: Scott 1887, pp. 8-9.

As an illustration of the lack of control the Corporation had over the North Terrace plantations, Owen Smyth, Head of the Works & Building Department, took it upon himself to transplant many palms onto the plantation from sites elsewhere around Adelaide, including Date Palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) in front of the Museum today. In addition, he orchestrated the planting of a mixture of trees in front of the Institute Building, Museum and Art Gallery including South Australian Blue Gums (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*), Sugar Gums (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*), Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), Indian-rubber Fig (*Ficus elastica*), Aleppo Pines (*Pinus halepensis*) and possibly Himalayan Cypress (*Cupressus torulosa*). This was a typical Gardenesque planting palette and it was carried out with little attention to a formal or defined planting design strategy resulting in a sense of arbitrariness less a desire to frame the entry views to these main buildings. Climbers were also employed including the use of grape vines (Scarlet-leaved Vine, *Vitis amurensis*, or Crimson Glory Vine, *Vitis coignetiae*) around the Armoury and Mounted Police Barracks, and self-clinging species including English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), Virginia Creeper (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata*) elsewhere including on the Government House walling (Owen Smyth 1923, p. 9b-c; de la Motte 1980, p. 10).

The 1886-87 Adelaide Jubilee International Exhibition impinged upon the North Terrace promenade. But it also enabled the establishment of Victoria Drive. While the colonial parliament and the Corporation sought to enable the Exhibition, a key venue for the exhibition involved the erection of a new Exhibition Building fronting North Terrace where the multi-level car park within the University of Adelaide exists today. Major earthworks and retaining wall construction was undertaken “to bring the upper flat up to the level of North-terrace” to enable the construction of the 4050m<sup>2</sup> permanent building. Design for the structure was given to the colonial Architect-in-Chief and the building was costed at £21,000 to £23,000 (*Annual Report* 1883-84, pp. 9-12).



Figure

A black and white photograph by ‘landscape photographer’ Captain William Sweet in c.1886 looking at the former Exhibition Buildings indicating landscape works in progress in front of the Building in anticipation of the opening of the 1886-87 Jubilee International Exhibition. These works included, as visually evident, new drainage and paving works, tree plantings in progress, and the use of white-painted metal post fencing supporting wires that possibly has not been finished in its construction given later images. Source: Pike & Moore 1983.



Figure  
A black and white lithograph reproduction of a photograph by reproduced by Hoben in 1897 depicting the Exhibition Buildings. Note the white painted metal post fencing supporting wires in the 'promenade' and timber posts and guttering in the foreground. Source: Hoben 1897, vol. 1, p. 334.

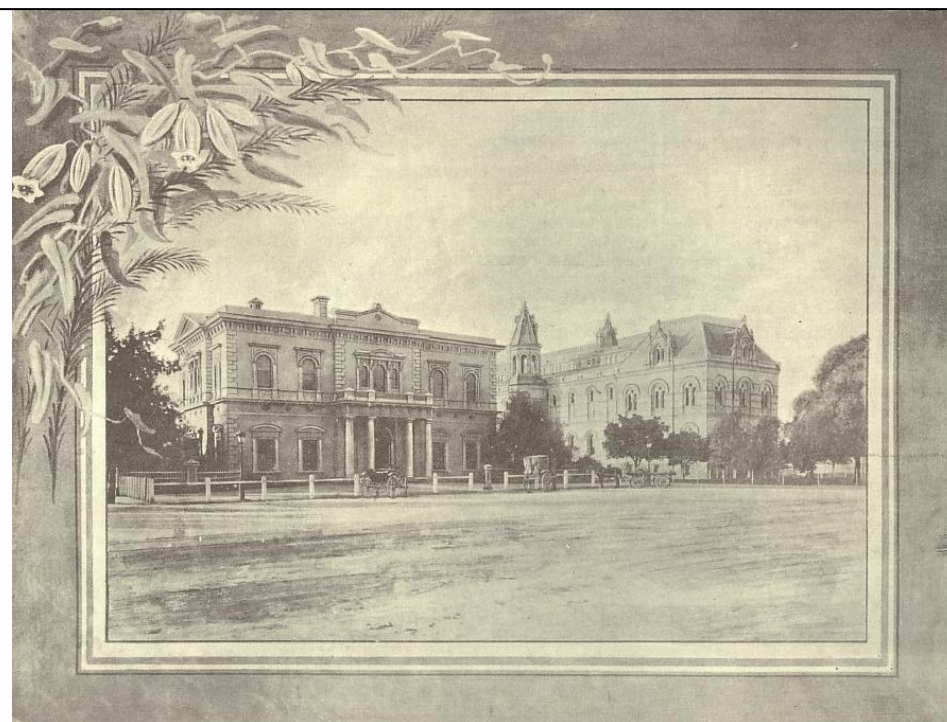


Figure  
A black and white lithograph reproduction of a photograph by reproduced by Hoben in 1897 depicting the Institute Building and Library. Note the white painted metal post fencing supporting wires in the 'promenade', the open gravelled space in front of the Institute Building. Source: Hoben 1897, vol. 2, p. 380.

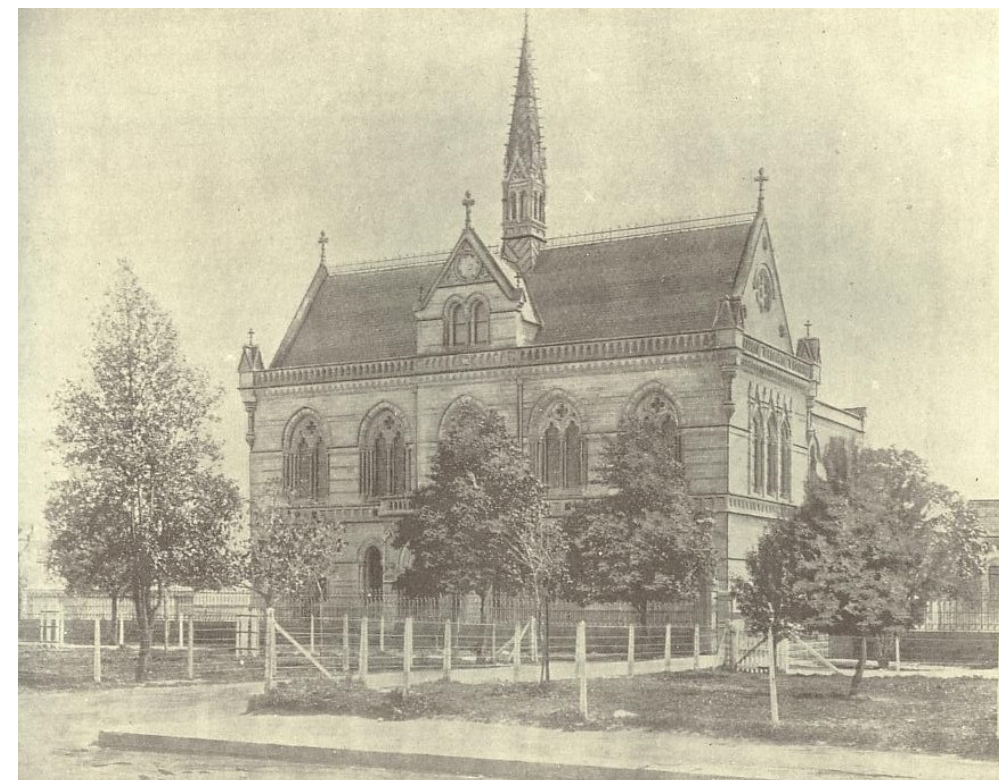


Figure  
A black and white lithograph reproduction of a photograph by reproduced by Hoben in 1897 depicting the Mitchell Building. Note the white painted metal or galvanised post fencing supporting 5-7 wires in the 'promenade'. Source: Hoben 1897, vol. 1, p. 104.

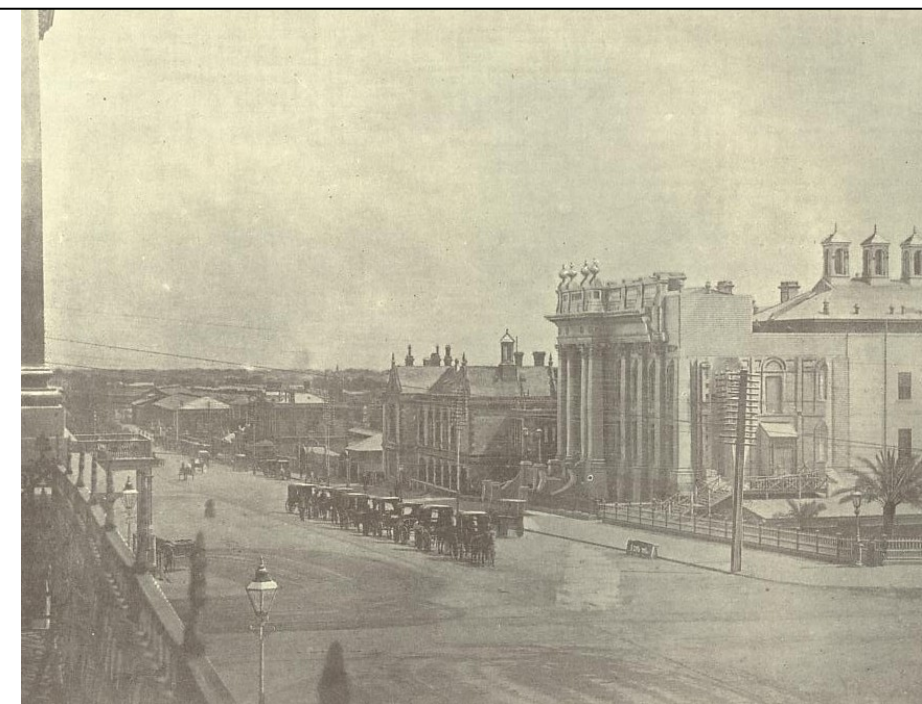


Figure  
A black and white lithograph reproduction of a photograph by reproduced by Hoben in 1897 depicting the Old and new Parliament Houses with the Railway Station beyond. Note the white painted post and tow rail fencing around undeveloped land on the corner of King William Street and North Terrace that became used for extensions to the new Parliament House, but also the use of the land as a 'garden' for Date Palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*) by Owen Smyth. Source: Hoben 1897, vol. 2, p. 376.



Figure  
A photograph of the present Creswell Gardens Fountain as originally erected on the front grounds of the Exhibition Building as an industrial exhibition display for the Jubilee International Exhibition 1886-87. Source: ACC Archives HP0596.

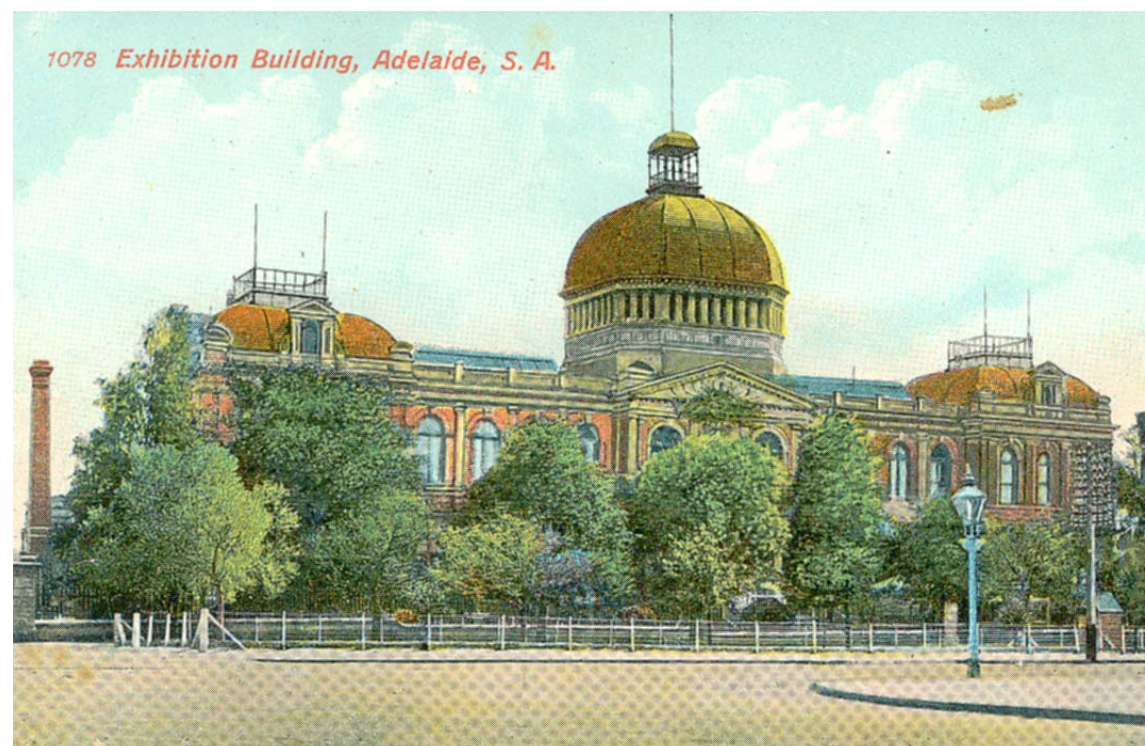


Figure  
A water-colour tinted postcard of the Exhibition Building in c.1901. Note the new white-painted metal post and three metal rail with wire fencing demarking the roadway and the plantation reserve, and the mature plantings in the 'promenade' disguising much of the front façade of the Building. Source: private collection.

While attempts had been made to erect a new Parliament House in the late 1800s, it was not until 1881 that a parliamentary decision and commitment was made to commence construction. Architects Edmund W Wright & Lloyd Tayler were successful with their design that was first called for in the *South Australian Gazette* on 11 December 1873, but works were prolonged due to lack of adequate finances and parliamentary dissension about the site. *Parliament Houses Act 87* of 1877 enabled the excision of land from the Adelaide Park Lands, confirmed in 1879, for the erection of the House, and finally in 1881 a budget allocation of £100,000 was made. Colonial Architect Edward John Woods proceeded with the works, adapting Wright & Tayler's design and using Kapunda marble. Erection works were slow, only one chamber was proceeded with, and both Woods and his clerk, Charles Owen Smyth, struggled to supervise and manage this development and also deal with changing technological advances and expectations for the House, before the west wing was completed in June 1889. Between 1890 to 1935 the site of the east wing consisted of an open lawn dotted with mainly Date Palms (*Phoenix dactylifera*). The east wing was completed and opened on 5 June 1939 by Governor-General Major-General Sir Winston Dugan and former state governor Lord Gowrie who had previously served as state Governor under the name Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven. Completion of these works resulted in a continuous façade of Corinthian columns in a colonnade with a spacious staircase. The King William Road side was finished in pilaster treatment of four columns in similar materials (Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 247-251).

The Brookman Building at the University of South Australia drew out of a colonial enquiry in 1886 that sought the best way of developing a system of technical and agricultural education in South Australia. Thus the School of Mines & Industry was born and the School was established in 1888 under the chair of Sir Langdon Bonython taking up residence on part of the former Exhibition Building land. Politician George Brookman bequeathed £10,000 to erect a suitable home for the School, and Brookman provided a further £5,000 when the foundation stone was laid on 7 March 1900. The colonial government allocated £16,000 to the building works and directed Superintendent of Public Works, Owen Smyth, to design and supervise the works. Owen Smyth, again seeking to achieve the best quality result on a minimal budget, reversed the traditional building materials to red brick and limestone dressings, applied a Gothic style with some Tudor features, and contractor F Fricker was employed at a tender of £25,613. Bluestone was sourced from Auburn, the freestone from Torode's quarry on the River Murray, and bricks produced by Halletts' Brompton brickyards. The present red brick and wrought iron front fence was erected at the same time as the building works (Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 272-273).



Figure  
A photograph of North Terrace in c.1890 looking from the approximate location of the present day Morphet Street bridge looking east to the rise of King William Street depicting the old Corporation Cattle Yards and Markets on the left, and thence the gabled corrugated iron covered railway station platforms. Note the width of the roadway also. Source: Pitcher 1977, no 15.

In 1891 philanthropist William Austin Horn donated two statues to the Corporation. The statuary comprised a white Carrara marble copy of ‘Venus di Canova’, or ‘Venere di Canova’, and a bronze facsimile of ‘Farnese Hercules’. The work was carved by Florentine sculptor Antonio Canova in the neo-classical style. The Corporation determined to locate ‘Venus’ in the south-western corner of the yet to be named Prince Henry Gardens, mounted on a Sicilian marble pedestal elevated on a Kapunda stone pedestal, “opposite the [Government House] Guardhouse, where a watchful eye may be kept upon it against any maltreatment by evil-disposed persons.” This statue, featuring Venus surprised at the bath, was unveiled on 3 September 1891 by the Mayoress, Mrs FW Bullock. With the upgrading of Prince Henry Gardens in 1930 this statue was relocated to a position in front of the South Australian Museum. In the 1965 it was shifted to accommodate the Bonython Fountain and was relocated to its present position. The ‘Hercules’ was re-located to Victoria Square before it was re-located to Pennington Gardens West (*Advertiser* 5 September 1892, p. 4; 20 October 1965, p. 2; ACC Archives File No F64R 1930; Cameron 1997, pp. 9-12; *Annual Report* 1891-92, pp. 10-11).

The Robert Burns statue, in front of the State Library, grew out of donations by the South Australian Caledonian Society and John Darling MLC. Unveiled on 5 May 1894, with a dedication plaque to the Society and Darling, it was the first statue carved in Adelaide, and drew

out of inter-state rivalry following information that Ballarat had erected a statue to honour Burns. The statue was carved by local sculptor William Maxwell, probably of Angaston marble, and first positioned on the western corner of Kintore Avenue and North Terrace. With plans to develop a National War Memorial, Burns was moved in 1930 to a location beside the entry pathway to the Art Gallery, but following disagreements within the Art Gallery governors, the statue was relocated in 1940 to its present site upon the intervention of state Premier Thomas Playford. Centenary celebrations for the statue were organised in 1994 by the Robert Burns Centenary Committee (*Messenger* 27 April 1994; ACC Archives File No 2617 1938; No F64R 1930; *Advertiser* 21 July 1903, p. 6; *Observer* 12 May 1894, p. 14; Cameron 1997, pp. 16-20).

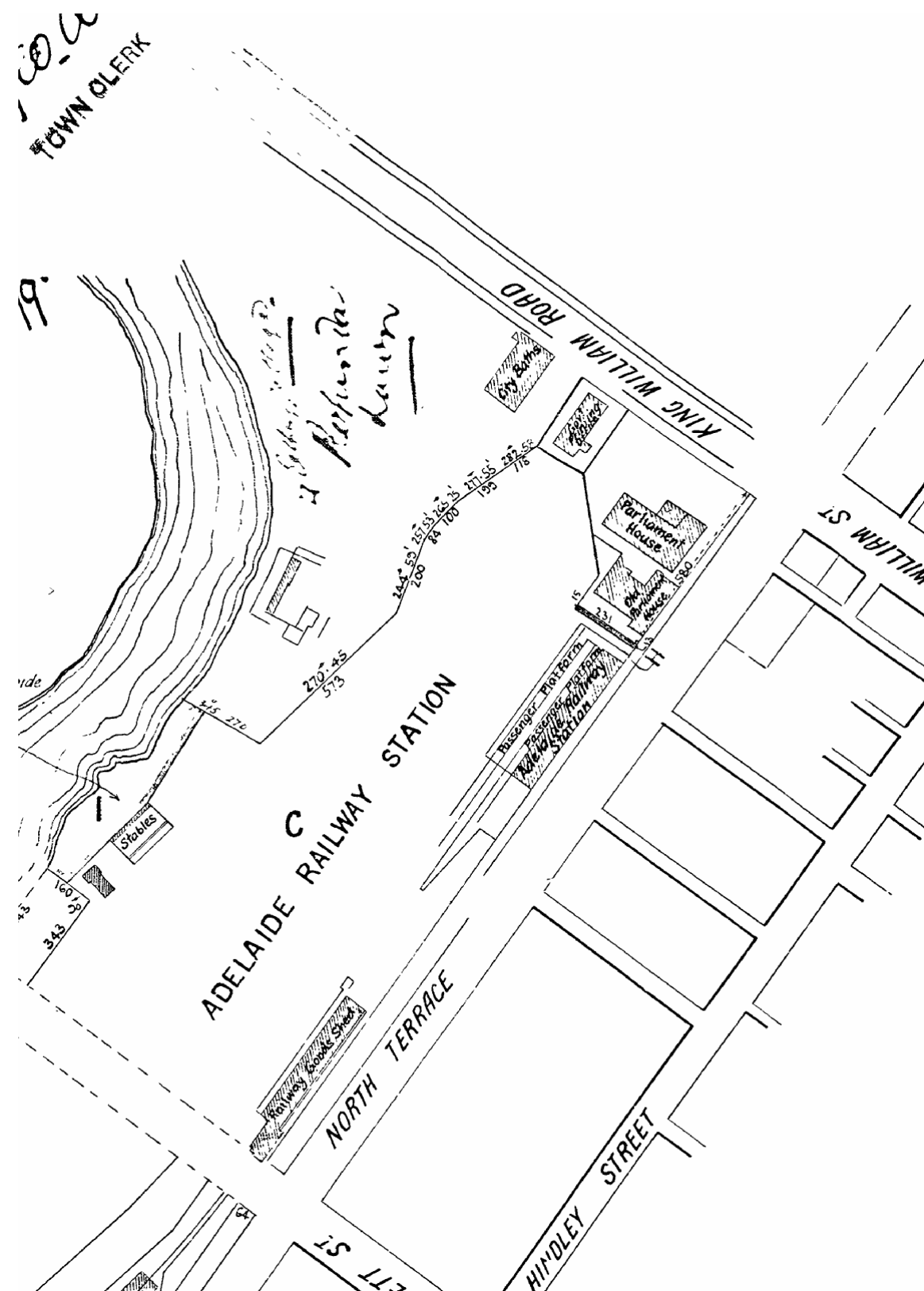
A ‘temporary’ wing to the Museum, the present northern wing, was designed superintendent of Public Works, Owen Smyth, in the early 1890s as a compromise of lack of adequate funds but the urgency to erect a functional display and storage venue. The result was a modest red brick structure, constructed by T Gregg at a cost of £8500 that was opened in 1895. It was a cost cutting solution that Owen Smyth received considerable criticism about, that he observed for many years was a “misunderstood building”, but was seen as a measure in lieu of allocation £40,000 for a cut-stone structure and envisaged that it would be masked by a quality material in the future once funds were available. Ironically he was praised for both the design and the strategy following his death (*Register* 31 October 1923, 2 October 1925; Marsden *et al* 1990, p. 263).

As part of a £65,000 legacy bequeathed to the University of Adelaide in 1898 by Sir Thomas Elder, some £20,000 was dedicated to establish a home for a School of Music. The School had been established in 1884 and its permanent home, the Elder Hall, was opened by a concert on 27 April 1900 but officially opened by state Governor Lord Tennyson on 26 September 1900. The design was prepared by architect FJ Naish, drawing upon a plain Florentine Gothic style, constructed of Stirling freestone from contractor Walter C Torode’s quarry for which he had been successful in the tender of £13,625 (Marsden *et al* 1990, p. 269).

Behind these snippets was a progressive deterioration of the quality and management of the North Terrace ‘Promenade’. 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.” North Terrace was, at this time was conceptually recognised as being under the jurisdiction of Owen Smyth, so was not included in this investigation and review. Notwithstanding this, the Corporation determined to establish a Parks & Gardens Department, appoint an experienced and qualified City Gardener, establish a tree nursery in Tulya Wodli/Park 27, and establish a “permanent Tree Planting Committee” under the Chair of Councillor William Ponder (*Annual Report* 1897-98, pp. 73-74).

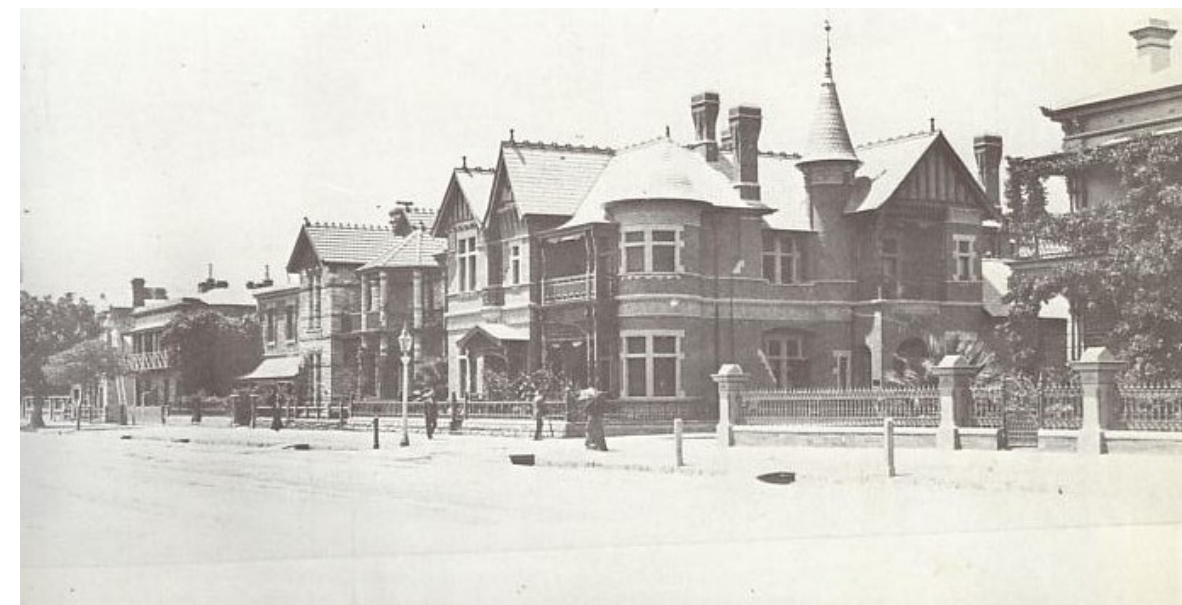
A key to the success of these policy changes was the appointment of August Wilhelm Pelzer in mid 1899 to the position of City Gardener. It was a position that he held until 1932. A secondary key was the role of “indefatigable” Ponder who extensively enabled the actions and visions of Pelzer to be implemented 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).

While Pelzer immediately set to work renourishing the Squares, the North Terrace ‘Promenade’ was excluded from his care although there are occasional references by him in his Annual Reports alluding to planting and gardening activities in the North Terrace ‘Promenade’ (*Annual Report* 1898-99, pp. 149, 150).



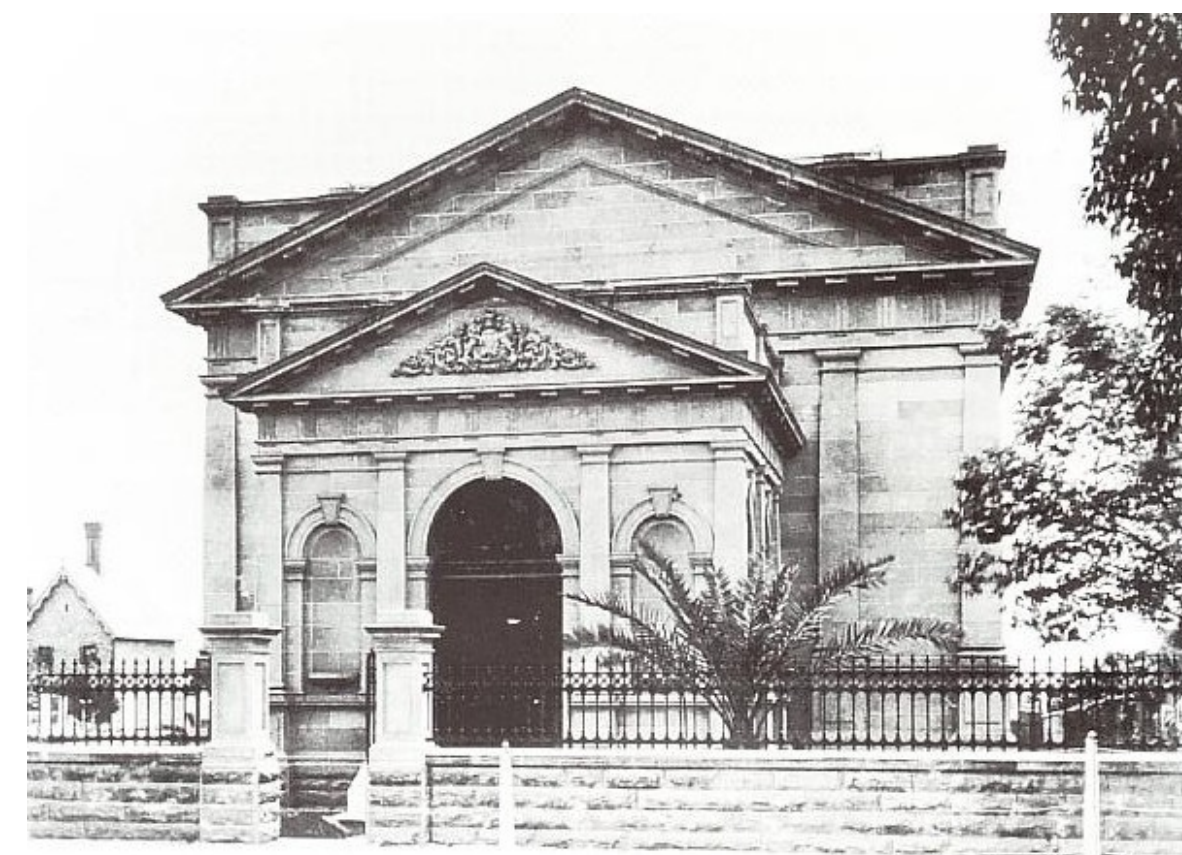
Figure

Extract of an untitled survey plan of land west of King William Street alienated for various railway purposes, hand annotated as being received from Town Clerk Ellery in September 1899. The plan is important as it indicates the exact location and function of buildings extant in 1899 on land between North Terrace, King William Road, the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri, and Morphett Street including the "Railway Goods Shed", "Adelaide Railway Station", "Old Parliament House", "Parliament House", "Gov. Printing Office" and "City Baths" and various outbuildings and fencing along the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri presumably remnants of past horse stables and yards. Source: ACC archives, Town Clerks Department (S15), Acc 1095.



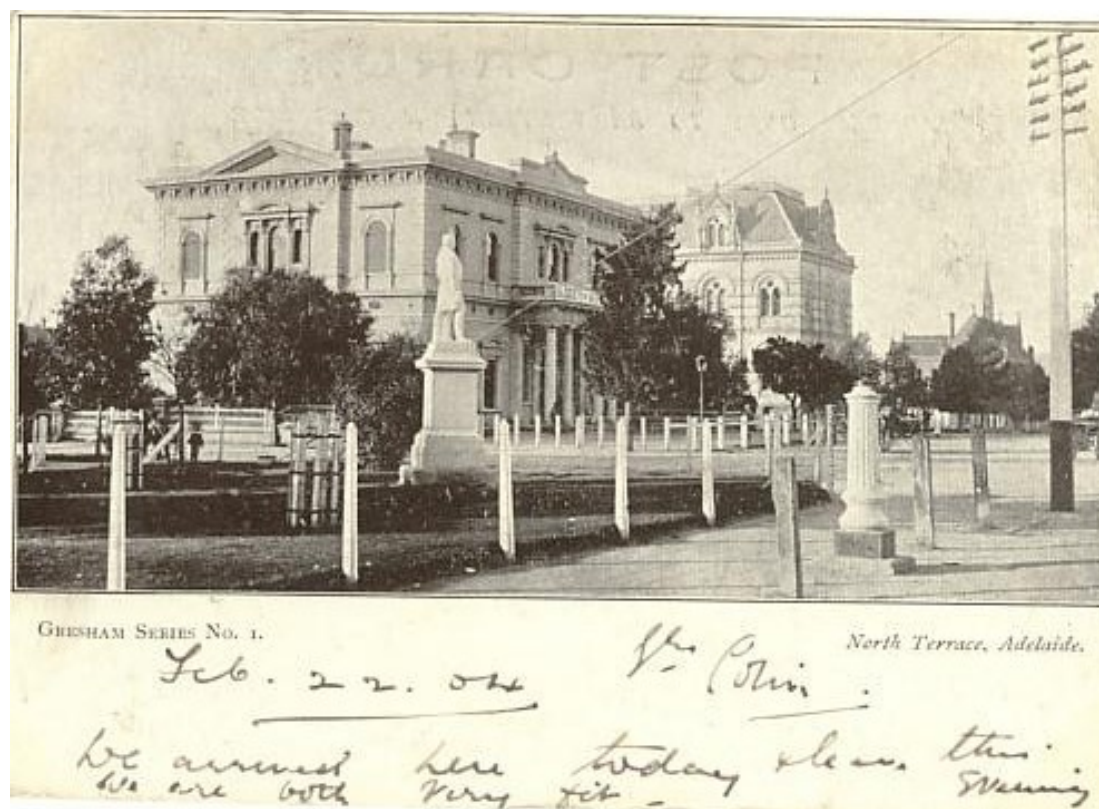
Figure

A photograph of the southern side of North Terrace looking eastwards from the Charles Street intersection indicating the high fashionable two-storey houses that used to line the southern side of North Terrace. Source: Burden c.1983, p. 15.



Figure

The front façade of the Art Gallery of South Australia in 1904 prior to the 1935 Melrose donation that enabled the current column façade to be erected. Note the sandstone front wall on the North Terrace frontage with its cast iron lace detailing, and the young Canary Island Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) in the foreground. Source: ACC archives.

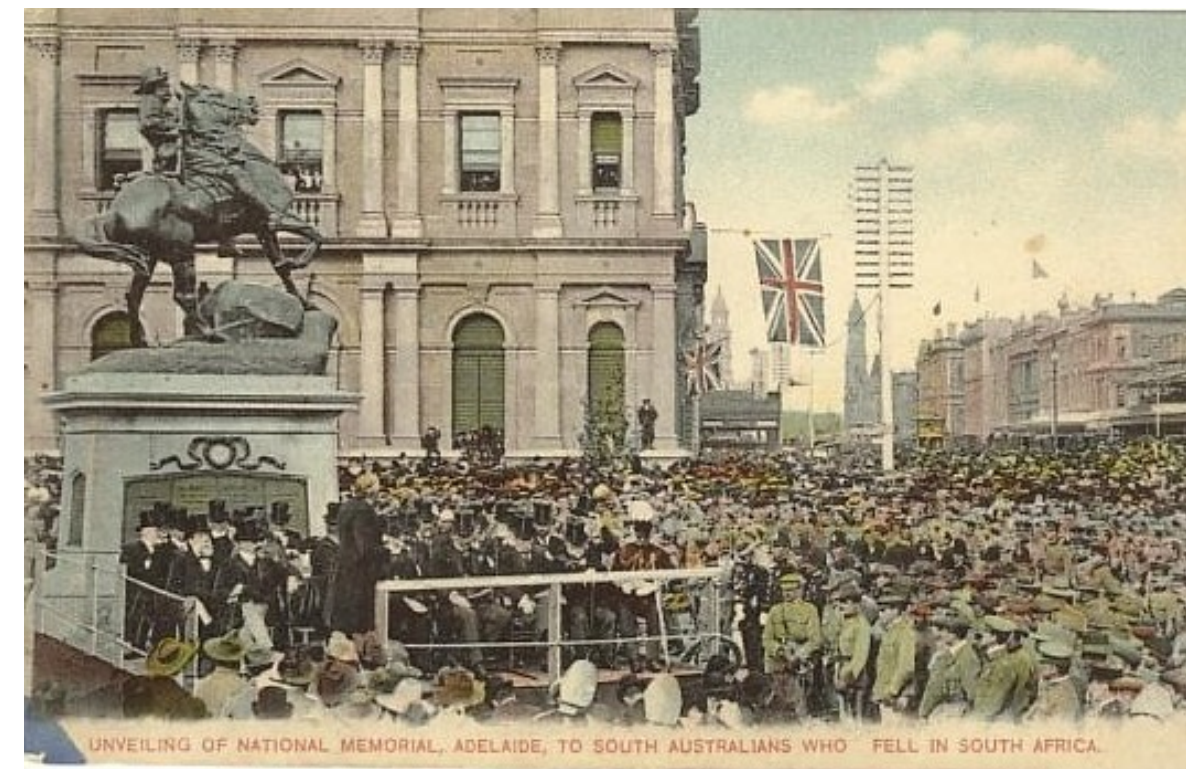


Figure

A photographic postcard of North Terrace looking towards the Institute Building with an annotated date of 22 February 1904. Note the original position of the Robert Burns statue, the galvanised iron fence posts, white-painted timber tree guards, old jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) posts. Source: private collection.

In 1902 the Corporation enabled the Committee of the National Memorial Fund to proceed with fund raising and the erection of a suitable equestrian statue on the corner of North Terrace and King William Road. Mayor Lewis Cohen believed that it would “undoubtedly [be] the finest example of the sculptor’s art in our city” and the Corporation approved the site in 1902 “having in view the need for special prominence” (*Annual Report* 1902, p. 13; 1903, p. 11; 1904, pp. 13, 75).

This statue, the South African War Memorial, was unveiled on 6 June 1904 by state Governor Sir George Ruthven Le Hunte and Pelzer had to re-lay the granite kerbing around the statue. The memorial recognised the state’s contribution to the Boer War, particularly with the South Australian Bushmen’s Corps and their horses. The memorial first arose from a suggestion by JCF Johnson prompting a public meeting and fund raising activities chaired by George Brookman to which some £2,500 was subscribed. Captain Adrian Jones, in Shropshire, was engaged to create the life-size bronze statue, described as a “spirited horse and his stalwart rider.” Jones was offered £1,600 to create the 11 foot (3.35m) high statue, and architects Garlick Sibley & Wooldridge were selected in February 1903 to design and supervise the 12 foot (3.65m) high pedestal. Stonemason W Laycock was commissioned to execute this design on red Murray Bridge granite affixed with bronze shields and scrolls cast by AW Dobbie & Co. At the same time the City of Adelaide proposed the corner site and set about altering pavements, kerbing and footpaths to accommodate the pending structure. The statue arrived in May 1904 and was unveiled the following month. The overall project cost £2594.2.11 (*Advertiser* 1 July 1903, p. 6; 19 October 1907, p. 4; *Observer* 11 June 1904, p. 40; Richardson 2006, p. 7; Cameron 1997, pp. 41-46; Marsden *et al* 1990, pp. 255-256; *Annual Report* 1902, p. 13; 1903, p. 11; 1904, pp. 13, 75).



Figure

A water-coloured tinted photographic postcard of the unveiling of the South African War Memorial on the corner of North Terrace and King William Street by state Governor Sir George Ruthven Le Hunte. Source: private collection.

Focusing upon North Terrace in 1902, Pelzer specifically turned his attention to tree planting works along this boulevard. Funds totalling £130 were allocated by the Corporation. This was despite the Corporation not having legal care and management of the land (*Annual Report* 1902, pp. 19, 20).

Following the Elder Bequest to the University of Adelaide the desire arose to recognise this bequest. Sir Samuel Way led this desire, chairing a statue committee from 1898 onwards, the committee selected English sculptor Alfred Drury at a fee of £900, and the anonymously donated Aberdeen granite pedestal was in place by October 1902. On 29 July 1903 a statue to Sir Thomas Elder was unveiled in the Goodman Crescent of the University of Adelaide by state Governor Sir George Ruthven Le Hunte and sited looking southwards to the Terrace. The life-size bronze statue featured three bronze reliefs and a decorative bronze shield on the fourth side. In 2004 the statue was restored and re-positioned to a location aligned with the axis line of the Elder Hall structure to accord with a landscape design proposal by Taylor Cullity Lethlean (*Advertiser* 30 July 1903, p. 6; *Register* 30 July 1903, p. 8; Cameron 1997, pp. 29-35).

Another statue erected in the early 1900s was a life-size bronze statue of Sir Walter Watson Hughes, seated, on top of a rectangular granite pedestal, that was unveiled on 28 November 1906. It was positioned in front of the Mitchell Building on University of Adelaide land. The statue records Hughes’ role as the first donor that inspired the establishment of the University. The statue was prompted by the unveiling of the nearly Elder statue, whereupon Hughes nephews, John and Walter Duncan, sought to raise suitable funds. They commissioned English sculptor Francis Williamson to prepare the statue in London together with the design of the pedestal. Adelaide mason W Laycock crafted the pedestal under the supervision of architect George Soward, and the statue was unveiled by Mrs Walter H Duncan (*Register* 5 January 1887, p. 5; 28 November 1906, p. 9; Cameron 1997, pp. 54-57).