

HOUSE

168 Jeffcott Street

Described in 1935 as one of Adelaide's 'quaintest' houses, the design of this building has been confidently attributed to the architect George Strickland Kingston. Certainly the elaborate Gothic inspired detailing and crenellation is evidence of an informed hand, but there is significant doubt as to the involvement of any architect with the design.

The cottage was built by Samuel Saint, a plasterer. Saint with his wife and six children arrived in the colony in 1849 and bought the property on which the cottage was built in 1851. The assessment records for that year show Saint as occupying a two room stone house with lean-to in Gover Street, but by 1853 Saint was recorded as occupying a house in Jeffcott Street. However, assessment surveyed in late 1856 shows that Saint had occupied a house in Gover Street for six years while a house facing Jeffcott Street had been occupied by Saint for only one month. As this assessment is the earliest accurate survey of the area, it is most likely that the cottage was built in 1856.

The attribution of the design of the cottage to Kingston may be considered specious as the building is simply an embellished version of the typical double fronted raised gabled-ended cottage commonly found throughout South Australia. In addition, Saint was a plasterer and so was capable of creating the moulding and details specific to this cottage. This casts further doubt on the involvement of any architect in the design. The Misses Saint explained in an article in the *Advertiser*, 28 September 1935 that their grandfather (Samuel Saint) had lived in a similar house near Windsor Castle and that on arrival in South Australia, ' . . . he built one as nearly like the old one as possible'.

Although the slate roof cladding has been replaced by corrugated iron and the front wall has had its chamfer-edged interstices filled, the external appearance of the cottage remains largely original. It is therefore a potent reminder of the colonist's provision not just of basic shelter, but the incorporation of symbolic association with the 'mother country'. It is an important record of the achievements of run and cast plaster detail of the 1850s, the hood moulds, terminations, crenellated parapet and porch all echoing elements which could have been selected from architectural pattern books of the day. The consistency of approach is notable, for even the window subdivision echoes the transoms and mullions to be found in Gothic architectural precedent.

This building, although not a major streetscape element, reinforces the small-scale residential character of the northern part of Jeffcott Street.

ACA, Assessments; *Advertiser*, 28 September 1935: MLSA, Franklin, R.W., *The Saint families of S.A.*

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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The property described in this Information Sheet is included in the Register of State Heritage places. A heritage listing does not mean or imply right of access by the public to such properties.

The heritage related Principles of Development Control as well as the Precinct specific objectives and Principles of Development Control are contained in the Adelaide (City) Development Plan. These should be referred to in whole when contemplating any development.

Further information on the Heritage Incentives Scheme, an initiative of Council to sponsor timely and appropriate conservation action is available upon request of the Customer Service Centre.



CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	HOUSE	Building No	29/2021
Address	168 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide	CT	2360/100

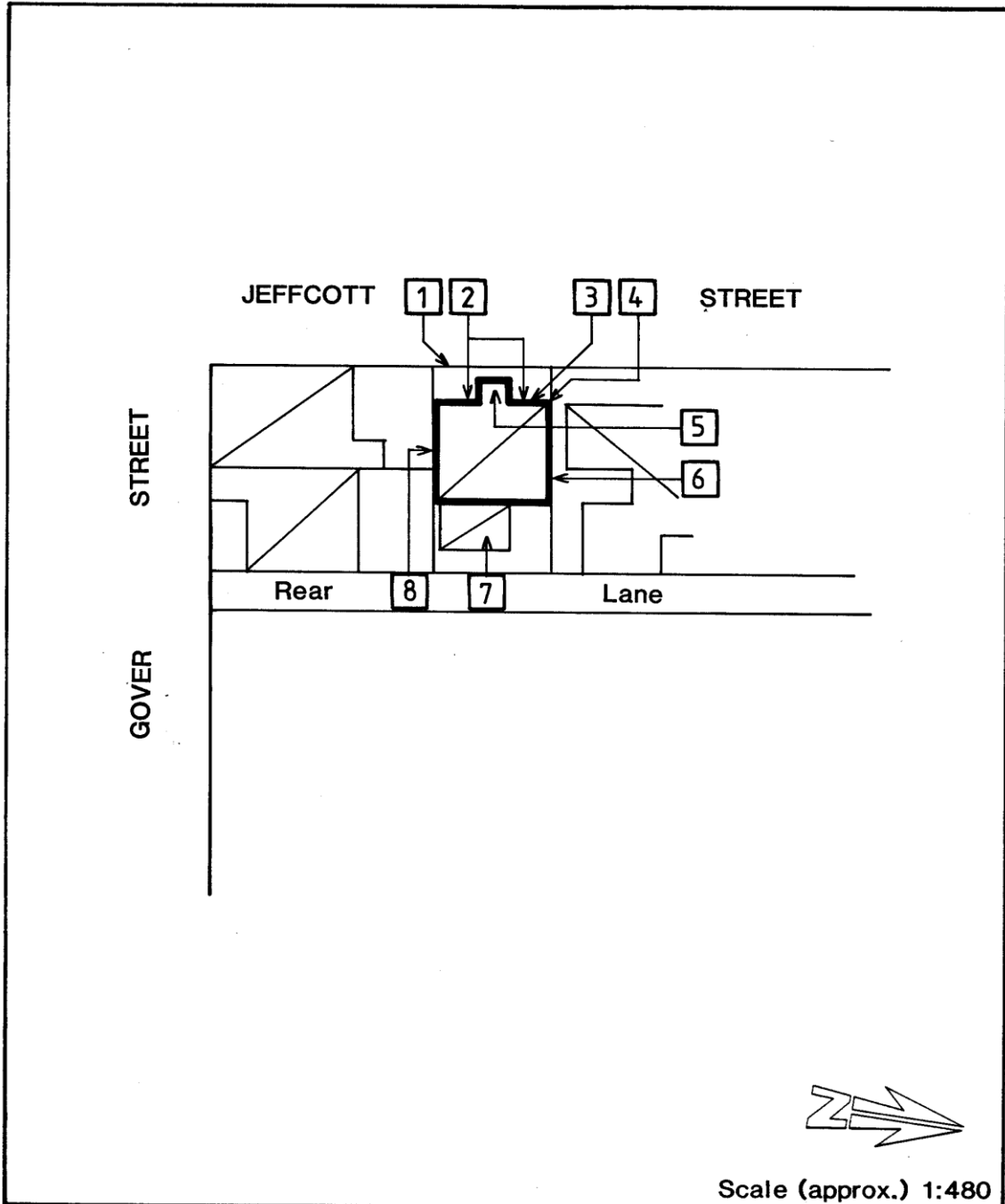


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Address	168 Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide	CT 2360/100

NOTES:

1. Rendered fence.
2. Note: Small figureheads.
3. Rendered facade with ashlar jointing.
4. Battlement parapet.
5. Portico.
6. Limestone rubble.
7. Rendered lean-to.
8. Note: Double gable (house built in two stages).