

## GABLE HOUSE

176-180 Ward Street



(CD Ref 1345/44)

Development at North Adelaide was clearly affected by social and economic events at large. The original burst of speculative development after settlement in Adelaide in 1837 was followed by recession, followed in turn by the copper mining boom, then stagnation as the colony was abandoned by thousands for the Victorian goldfields.

However, by the mid-1850s South Australian society was settling in for a long period of consolidation and rising prosperity. At North Adelaide both private and public buildings reflected that process. This house is a good example of the type constructed at the beginning of that era for the increasing numbers of modestly prosperous middle-class residents.

The house was built in 1856 for Moses Frith. Its form is typical of the early constructional genre with adjoined gable ended roof sections and limestone rubble walling. It is unusual as the building presents its gables to the street and features quality brickwork, particularly above the main entrance which is flanked by distinctively corbelled brickwork leading to the diminutive and decorative parapet. The brick strings, surrounds to openings and gauged brickwork, copings and quoins are of high quality, which is unusual for a house of such early construction.



(CD Ref 1345/46)

Apart from its general historical significance this was the home of Rosa Catherine Fiveash, botanical artist, and her father Robert Archibald Fiveash, an early colonist and later manager of the Blinman and Yudnamutana mines in the Flinders Ranges.

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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(CD Ref 1345/45)

Rosa was born in Adelaide on 22 July 1854 as the youngest child of R.A. Fiveash and lived in Gable House with her sister all her life from early childhood. Trained by Miss Agnes Benham and then at the Adelaide School of Art and Design between 1881-88, she taught art privately and at Tormore House School in North

Adelaide. She illustrated for several scientists, her first project being an unfinished one of nine parts which were published between 1882-90 in John Ednie Brown's study *The forest flora of South Australia*. She illustrated scientific work for Sir Edward C. Stirling and E.R. Waite, and collaborated with Dr R.S. Rogers for thirty years while he studied orchids and illustrated his section on orchids in J.M. Black's *Flora of South Australia*. Rogers described her as the foremost Australian artist of her day. By 1900 her reputation was so great that Lord Tennyson and Robert Barr Smith bought some of her works as a gift to the colony. In the 1930s Rosa Fiveash presented many of her paintings to the Public Library of South Australia. She was also acclaimed for china painting and she pioneered the art in Adelaide, ' . . . attending to all stages of the process, including the firing'. She died on 13 February 1938.

ACA, Assessments, Smith Survey 1880; *Australian dictionary of biography*, Vol. 8, 1981, pp. 517-8; *South Australian Register*, 29 January 1872.

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*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.*

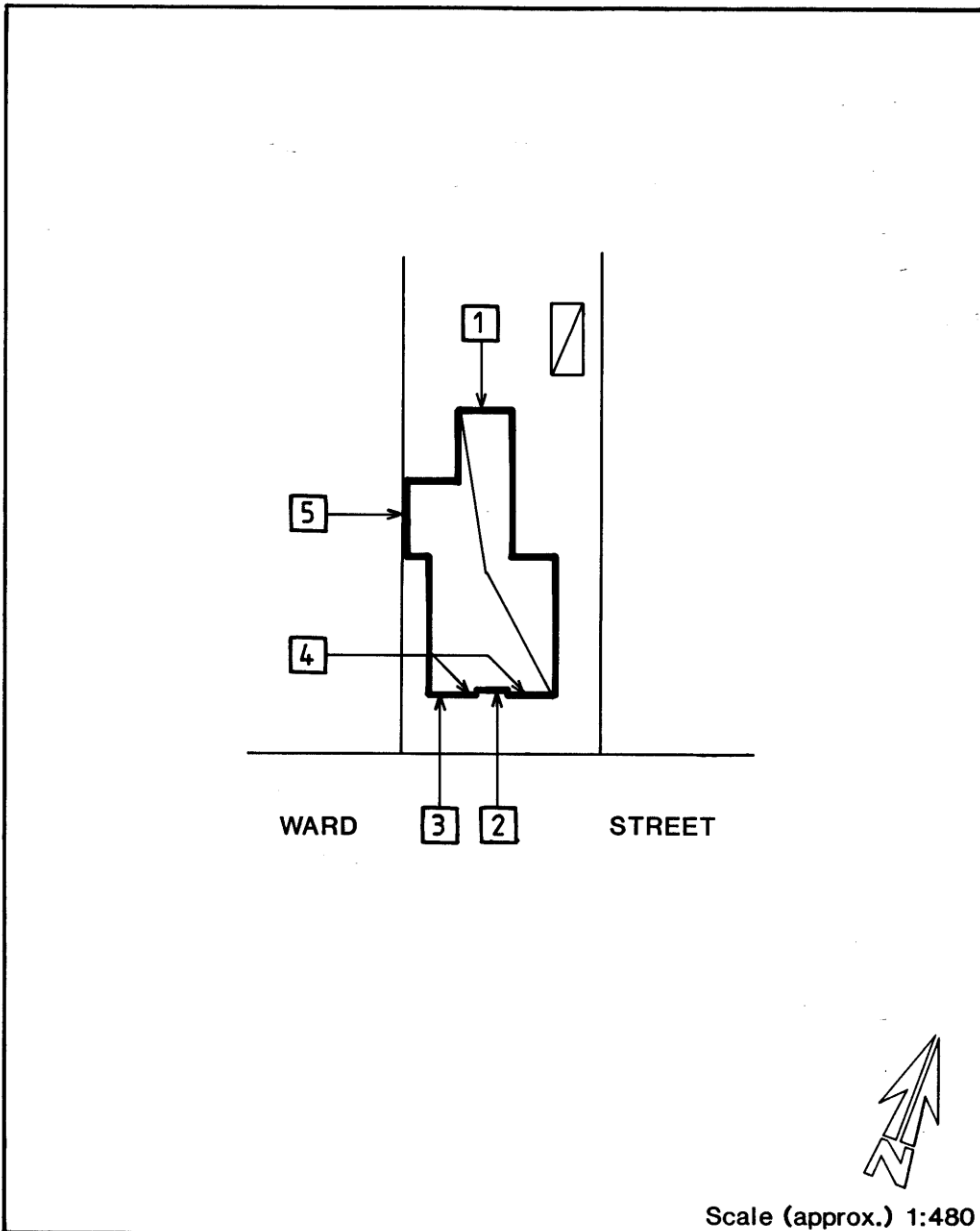


# CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

## The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	GABLE HOUSE	Building No	31/0510
Address	176-180 Ward Street, North Adelaide	CT	1716/108



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#### NOTES:

1. Brick.
2. Note: Small brick parapet between gables.
3. Limestone rubble with quality brick detailing and plinth. Note: String course with dentils. Slate roof on external pitch but iron in valley.
4. Note: French doors.
5. Brick.