

FORMER HOUSES

263-265 North Terrace

Dr Fisher has completed during the year [1872] two residences on North Terrace . . . On the basement floor are cellar and pantries and two large summer living rooms. On the ground floor there are handsome arch pilasters, caps, and bases separating the front portion from that from which the staircase rises to the first floor, where are the kitchen, scullery, pantries and larder. The western house is provided with a surgery and waiting room approached directly from the street, and is designed specially as a medical man's residence. The one pair floor has bedrooms, nursery, bathroom and every convenience. The design is Italian in outline, and the veranda and [canopy] which are ornate and pleasing, give a tone to the buildings generally. The architects were Messrs English and Rees of Temple Chambers. The work has been carried out by Dr Fisher, with the assistance of a clerk of works, under the superintendence of the architects, and has involved an expenditure of about £2500 . . .



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Such was the nature of nineteenth century success, published in respectful detail in the *South Australian Register* for all to read, admire, imitate. Indeed, Dr John Fisher may well have started a trend. From the 1880s it became increasingly fashionable for medical men to build professional rooms on North Terrace. Several, like Dr Fisher, combined substantial residences with surgeries, creating a handsome residential streetscape along southern North Terrace by the early twentieth century. Dr Fisher's premises, which are among the earliest of such residences and purpose-built surgeries, are one of the very few which have survived the almost total transformation of that streetscape from residential to commercial use.

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

Dr Fisher arrived in South Australia in 1851 and practised at Salisbury, where he was also a justice of the peace and health officer for the Munno Para District Council and Yatala Prison. He lived only briefly in the western house of the pair on North Terrace, between 1872 and 1874. From 1876 he was a resident surgeon for the Wallaroo Mines at Kadina. He died in 1879 at his house in Hutt Street.

The design may have been one of the last executed while Rowland Rees was still in partnership with Thomas English. In common with several other nineteenth century architects, Rees and English pursued public office with as much vigour and due reward as in their professional careers. In 1872 after the partnership dissolved Rees became an engineer for the Holdfast Bay Railway and in the same year entered parliament, representing Burra Burra. He also became minister of education in 1878. Thomas English was commissioner of public works between 1868-67 and mayor of Adelaide. After practising with Rees, English went into partnership with George Kiewitz Soward until his death in 1884.

For many years the residences continued to be used by the medical profession, most notably by the Chinese specialist Dr Lum Yow. Dr Lum Yow, whose advertisements for 'Cure All' tonic were a regular feature of the newspapers, was associated with the residence from 1909 until about 1934. His memorial is one of the largest in West Terrace Cemetery.



The North Terrace building is a distinctive composition, centred about the central passage which creates a rear access. Such access to the rear of premises was once a common design in Adelaide of which few examples remain.

The substantial bay windows enliven the building. The window detailing is picked up by the bracketed eaves in a manner similar to the design at the Tivoli Hotel, which is also attributed to Rowland Rees. Regrettably, the chief glory of the building, the balcony and subsidiary verandas, have been removed, and the facade has been cleaned rather too thoroughly, removing almost all colour of the bluestone.

ACA, Assessments, Smith Survey 1880, fieldbook No. 10, p. 52; Lewis, H.J., *Salisbury, South Australia, a history of town and district*, 1980, p. 123; Loyau, G.E., *Notable South Australians*, 1885, p. 181; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 27); South Australian

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directories, 1880 onwards; *South Australian Institute of Architects Quarterly Bulletin* January-March 1958, pp. 15-16; *South Australian Register*, 8 January 1873, 27 January 1879.



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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.

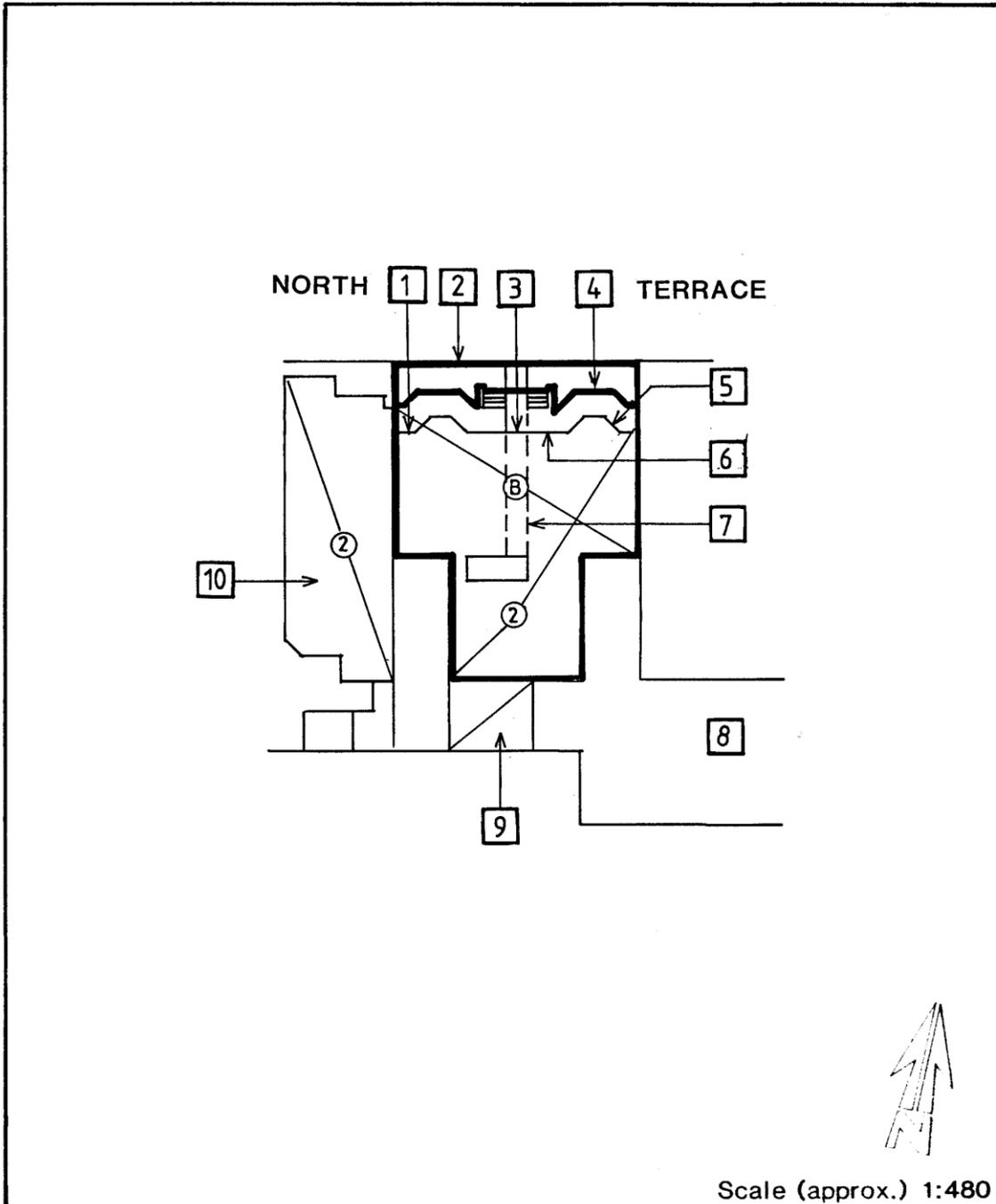


CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES/OFFICES	Building No 4/0107
Address	263-265 North Terrace	CTs 4141/511 & 512



Scale (approx.) 1:480

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NOTES:

1. Note Ornate brackets to bay windows.
2. Wall, cast iron railings and gates.
3. Bluestone rubble with stucco enrichment.
4. Line of basement level also formerly line of verandah/balcony now removed.
5. Rendered bay windows.
6. Line of face of building with bay windows.
7. Passageway between pair of former residences at ground floor level.
8. Brick (Colonial bond).
9. Recent bathroom additions.
10. 261 North Terrace included on City Heritage Register.