

SHOP AND TERRACE HOUSES

265-269 Gilles Street



269 Gilles Street (CD Ref 1347/53)

wall of the terraces is rendered while the stone is exposed in the principal elevation to Gilles Street.

The two terrace houses (numbers 265 and 267) are narrow, the facade to No. 265 revealing a plan of a hallway with rooms opening off one side. Number 267 was originally entered to one side from the ground floor passage now enclosed. Both terraces have a verandah and balcony to the upper floor. Number 265 shares its most westerly wall with its neighbour, 263 Gilles Street, a single storey house.

It is likely that the two terrace houses and corner shop were built in four stages for Charles Williams, a printer and compositor. Charles Williams came to South Australia from London in 1856 and settled in Gilles Street in C1865. He bought this Gilles Street property from Samuel Johnson Cookson.

This complex of buildings consists of two terrace houses and a corner shop and residence. All three buildings are of two storey and attached, the shop (No. 269) abuts the footpath and the terraces are set back from the pavement. The architectural form of the shop, two storeyed with a chamfered corner, is typical of small corner shops once so prevalent in the city.

The complex of buildings are constructed of bluestone with rendered dressings and simple rendered chimneys projecting from a corrugated galvanised iron clad roof. The western



267 Gilles Street (CD Ref 2018/48)

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Williams lived in a house on the property that was built between 1865 and 1871. He also owned the vacant block next door on the corner of Louisa and Gilles Street.



265 Gilles Street (CD Ref 2015/47)

It appears that the shop was constructed in 1871 and the two terrace houses by 1880. The Rate Assessment Books record that Williams built a shop on the vacant block in C. January 1871 and leased the property. Although there is some confusion about the building schedule, it is clear that by 1880 two terrace houses and the shop existed on the site. Williams' house had doubled in rateable value between 1875 and 1876, suggesting

additions to the existing house or a completely new dwelling.

Charles Williams was a printer who was keenly interested in music and literature and reputedly possessed an encyclopaedic knowledge of musical and dramatic celebrities. Before emigrating to South Australia, he served as an apprentice in the printing trade, studying music typesetting. He was engaged to prepare for printing John Bishop's arrangement of 'The Messiah', 'The Creation', Judas Maccabeus' and other oratorios. In England he was a member of the Moral Force Chartist (a section of the Chartist movement that advocated gentler methods) and the Anti-Corn-Law League (established to attempt to remove the tax on corn). When he settled in Adelaide he was initially employed on the staff of *The Register*. He was very interested in social and political issues and became the honorary secretary of the Political Association and a member of the Democratic Club, as well as a founding member and first president of the South Australian Typographical Society. He died in January 1905, aged 84 years.

The construction of this block of three buildings reflects the pattern of land development of the south-eastern corner of Adelaide. Although scattered small communities existed in the south-eastern corner of the city from the early 1840s, many Town Acres and part Town Acres remained undeveloped in this part of the City until the 1880s. From 1878 the pace of development quickened, with many allotments being developed by the mid 1880s, only to slow after 1882 with the onset of a severe economic depression. Williams, like many other small businessmen at this time constructed these buildings for the purposes of supplementing his income by the rental of two of his buildings. The buildings also illustrate the construction of corner shops to service the needs of the small, local community.

Land Title Office, Certificate of Title 891/1-2, 1573/8, 1919/20-21, 2008/90-91; Rate Assessment Books for the years 1857-1901; Smith Survey 1880, Field book No 7, p. 25; Statton, J. *Biographical Index of South Australians*, vol iv, p. 1715; Obituary for Charles

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Williams, *Observer*, 14 January 1905, p. 23; Lithograph, *Australasian Sketcher*, 10 July 1875; A.C. Cooke and J. Calvert's Lithograph of 1876

The text in this Information Sheet was copied from the **City of Adelaide Heritage Study**, October 1990, Volume One, part of a review of the City of Adelaide Plan 1986-1991. The photographs contained in this Information Sheet are a selection of those held by Heritage Services, in digital format.

The property described in this Information Sheet is a place of Local Heritage (City Significance). 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.