

## ATTACHED HOUSES

334-340 Halifax Street



(CD Ref 1343/59)

This small yet distinguished row of houses was erected in 1892 for Miss H.A.S.A.B. Kevern (later Mrs Chesterfield). It is a notable example of late Victorian housing and was one of the last groups of residences to be erected in this section of Halifax Street.

Miss Kevern married into a family of building contractors. T.R., W.R. & J. Chesterfield. Their father was described as ' . . . well known as a builder and contractor of great merit'. The Chesterfield sons were also building contractors. It is highly likely that the Chesterfields constructed Miss Kevern's houses in Halifax Street. The architect was Captain Thomas Hyland Smeaton.

Smeaton, born and educated in Glasgow, served an apprenticeship in stone cutting and building before entering the architectural profession. He emigrated to South Australia in 1879 where he was employed by the government as a clerk of works, then worked for several firms before setting up his own practice. He was also councillor for Young Ward in the Adelaide City Council between 1892-96, member for the District of Sturt in the House of Assembly for nine years from 1905, chairman of the Fire Brigades Board, president of the Tramways Employees' Union, member of the Council of the School of Mines, foundation member of the Adelaide Literary Society and secretary to the SA Public Teachers' Association. He held the rank of captain in the commonwealth forces, being one of the first officers and foundation member of the Adelaide Scottish Corps. During the First World War he was appointed chief censor officer in the state. Captain Smeaton was editor of the *S.A. Literary Societies' journal*

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and gained more first prizes than any other competitor for literary competition work at the annual South Australian Literary Societies Union competitions. As a member of the Congregational Church, for many years he conducted one of the largest Bible classes in Adelaide for young men and was an avid supporter of the YMCA.

Judging by the architecture of this row, Smeaton was an architect of some sensitivity. The composition is typical of the Victorian period with adjoined Italianate bay windowed villas. There is fine detailing, with bay windows elaborated by small columns with foliated capitals, string courses of profiled brick, and squared bluestone to principal elevations, together with a terracotta panel to the gable infill over the veranda which is supported by a well detailed timber structure. This row is transitional in style, representing a form typical of the Victorian boom period while the detailing anticipates the Edwardian era. The individual houses in this small row have been sympathetically renovated with the retention of internal features such as marble fire surrounds and original joinery.



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The row on its corner site is a distinctive item in Halifax Street and helps to define the residential character of the street.

ACA, *Digest of Proceedings*, 13 June 1892; Burgess, H.T., *Cyclopedia of South Australia*, Vol. 1, 1909. p. 216; *Chronicle*, 1 June 1912; *Observer*, 21 January 1911; *South Australian Register*, 9 June 1892; Universal Publicity Company, *The Official city record of South Australia*, 1936.

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*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.*

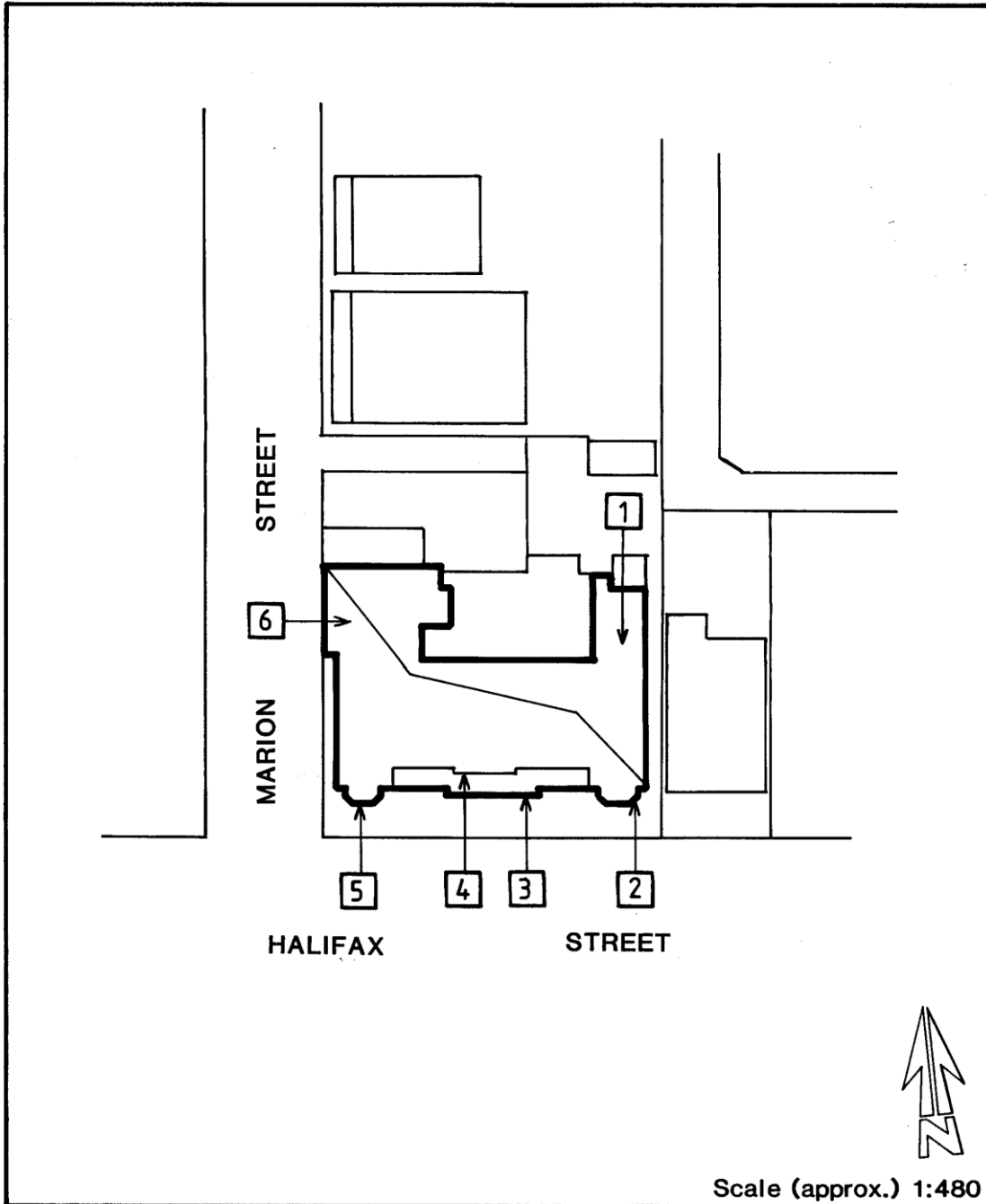


# CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

## The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	ADJOINED HOUSES	Building No	18/2606
Address	334-340 Halifax Street; 32-40 Marion Street	CT	4076/524 & 525 4070/5



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#### NOTES:

1. Squared bluestone with brick quoins and detailing. Note Brick string courses.
2. Bay windows.
3. Verandah with joinery.
4. Note Cladding to gable and timber barge boards.
5. Note Semi-elliptical window openings with moulded trim and columns with foliated capitals.
6. Note Chimney detailing.