

FORMER HOUSES

56-60 North Terrace

Landuse at the western end of North Terrace has been varied, with barley and vegetable growing until the 1840s to early 1900s, and finally commercial and industrial development. Only hotels have survived the changes, including the Royal Oak and the rebuilt Black Swan (Hotel Centralia).

These dwellings at 56-60 were known as 'Mills Buildings', named after George Mills. They were built on Town Acre 6 at a time when permanent structures were replacing original cottages of weatherboard, paling and pisé, several of which had stood on this site.

George Mills had four houses built here in 1865. In the 1869 assessment these were valued at £45 for each of the three smaller houses, and £84 for the residence Mills occupied to the west. Such small-scale residential development was quite typical, as was the means by which Mills made sufficient money to be able to build. In common with many other colonists, Mills progressed from a single trade to an occupation which grew as settlement expanded.

Mills arrived in South Australia in about 1840, beginning as a shoemaker in Hindley Street. He brought horses from Tasmania and let them out for work on the Port Road, then becoming a carrier between the city and the port. In 1856 when the city to port railway was opened he became a partner with H. Hill in the firm J.R. Fuller and Co, managing all of the goods traffic on the line. Mills managed the stables at Adelaide, Gawler and Kapunda as the railways were extended. From 1871 to 1882 he was a member of the coaching and carrying firm of John Hill and Co. After Mills died in 1888, his wife Annie continued to live at their home on North Terrace until about 1908.



(CD Ref 3982/79)

The dwelling next door to Mills' house was used as a boarding house by J. Barwick and then by Arthur and Louisa Morris. By 1885 they had expanded to include the next house and took in boarders until 1903. The Morris family changed the business to become the Victoria Coffee Palace which lasted until about 1914.

The change was actually minor as the role of coffee palaces at that time was primarily one of inexpensive unlicensed accommodation of a standard between boarding house and hotel.

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

George Mills' former house is a sizeable residence for this locality. The interiors of the houses to the east have been greatly changed for use as a restaurant. As a whole these comparatively early houses, together with the Hotel Centralia, form a small group of some cohesion and historical interest within the present streetscape of western North Terrace.

ACA, Assessments, 1848, 1864-9, 1885; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 6); *Observer*, 15 December 1888; *South Australian Directory*; 1872, 1885, 1903-15.

The text in this Information Sheet was copied from the **Heritage of the City of Adelaide: An Illustrated Guide**, (1996). 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 included in the Register of State Heritage places.

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	Former HOUSES	Building No	1/0701
Address	57-60 North Terrace, 2-10 Fenn Place	CT	2712/31; 3604/144

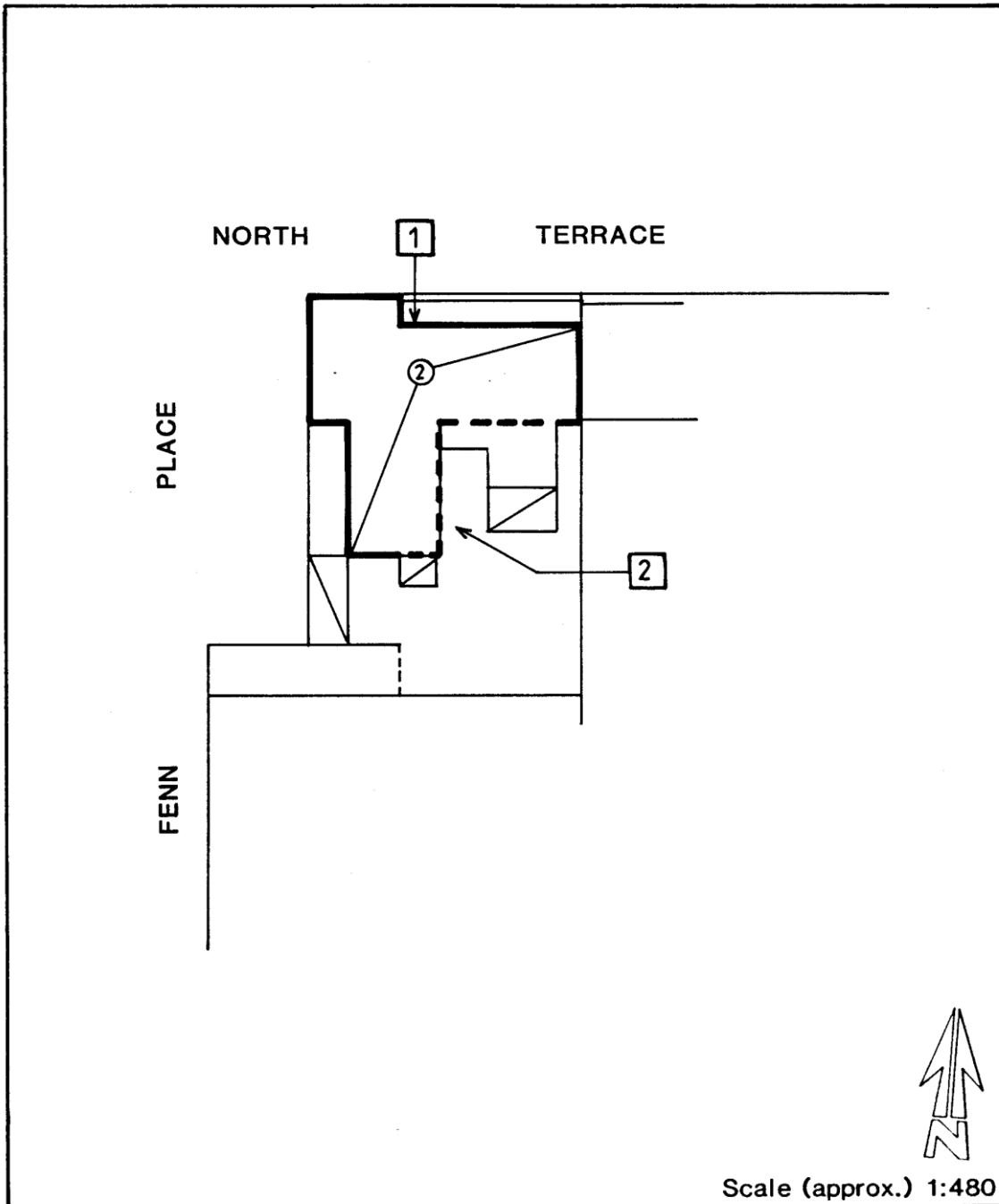


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NOTES:

1. Door blocked.
2. New at rear.