

FORMER GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY OFFICES

59-60 Pennington Terrace



(CD Ref 1215/3)

Stephen Joyce arrived in South Australia in 1850 and made his way as a painter and a grocer, having this house erected in 1859 to replace a more primitive iron house. The house was next owned and occupied by Joseph John Green from 1876 until his death in 1903. Green's widow, Sarah Ellen, remained there until her death in 1915. J.J. Green arrived in 1849 and was a carrier and leather grinding merchant, starting that business in 1867. He was a city councillor from 1881 to 1883, and also president of the Chamber of Manufactures.

Like many other large North Adelaide residences the house was put to a new use in the twentieth century. It became a residence of quite a different type, albeit with impeccable social connections. In 1915 it was bought by the Girls' Friendly Society (GFS) for use as a lodge to accommodate immigrant girls. It was not sold by the GFS until 1975, after social

changes had reduced the need for hostel accommodation, both by new arrivals and by young women working or studying in Adelaide.

The Girls' Friendly Society was introduced from England, the first Australian branch being established in Adelaide by the governor's wife, Lady Jervois, and her daughters in 1879. It developed into a major Anglican organisation. A church historian, G.H. Jose, wrote in 1954 that the society, ' . . . operated at first rather patronizingly in parish preceptory meetings, but [it] has developed into an active and useful body well deserving the name'. A more glowing account was provided in the GFS history which described the activities as, ' . . . wonderful in their diversity and numbers'. The girls raised thousands of pounds for church institutions and charities, they distributed clothing to the poor, supported missionaries, raised funds to help build and beautify their parish churches, taught in the Sunday schools, sang in the choirs, cheered the suffering, and competed ' . . . in elocutionary, folk-dancing, vocal, instrumental, dramatic, needlework, drawing, painting and cooking competitions'.

Lady Jervois stressed the need for a home for newly arrived immigrant girls. A lodge was first established by the GFS in private rooms in Halifax Street in 1887, but was closed for lack of use in 1888. Finally a GFS lodge was established in 1913 when a house was rented in Kermode Street. The permanent lodge was moved in 1915 to this house on Pennington

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Terrace thanks to the 'generous gift' of Mrs R. Barr Smith. Other donations enabled the later construction of an attached hall. The whole lodge represented the philanthropic donations and voluntary efforts of many hundreds of South Australian women, as did so many other large, charitable institutions. GFS membership as a whole reached its peak of 359 members in 1915, so that this lodge was also a reflection of the energies of a numerically large and active organisation.

The principal facade is prominently situated near the pavement alignment overlooking the Park Lands and is dominated by the balcony, decorated in cast-iron. The building is of three levels with eleven rooms in all, and is notable for its intact appearance. It is a relatively early example of this type of residence and is constructed in a variety of stonework



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including limestone rubble to the ground floor. This variety of materials, the later appearance of the balcony and ironwork, and other inconsistencies suggest that the first floor is an addition, probably of the 1870s. Possibly this was carried out when Green bought the house. Additions have been made at the rear which mar the authenticity of the building, and considerable renovation has occurred internally. However, the building remains a distinctive streetscape feature.

ACA, Assessments, 1852, 1858, 1859; Hines, M., *Fifty years' history of the Girls' Friendly Society in South Australia*, 1929, pp. 26, 28; Jose, G.H., *The Church of England in South Australia, 1856-1881*, Vol. 2, 1954, p. 28; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 706); Morrison, W.F., *The Aldine history of South Australia*, Vol. 2, 1890, p. 737; *Observer* 14 February 1903.

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. 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.

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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	HOUSE (former GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY)	Building No	35/2104-3
Address	59-60 Pennington Terrace, 1-13 Abbott Lane, North Adelaide	CTs	4238/705-711

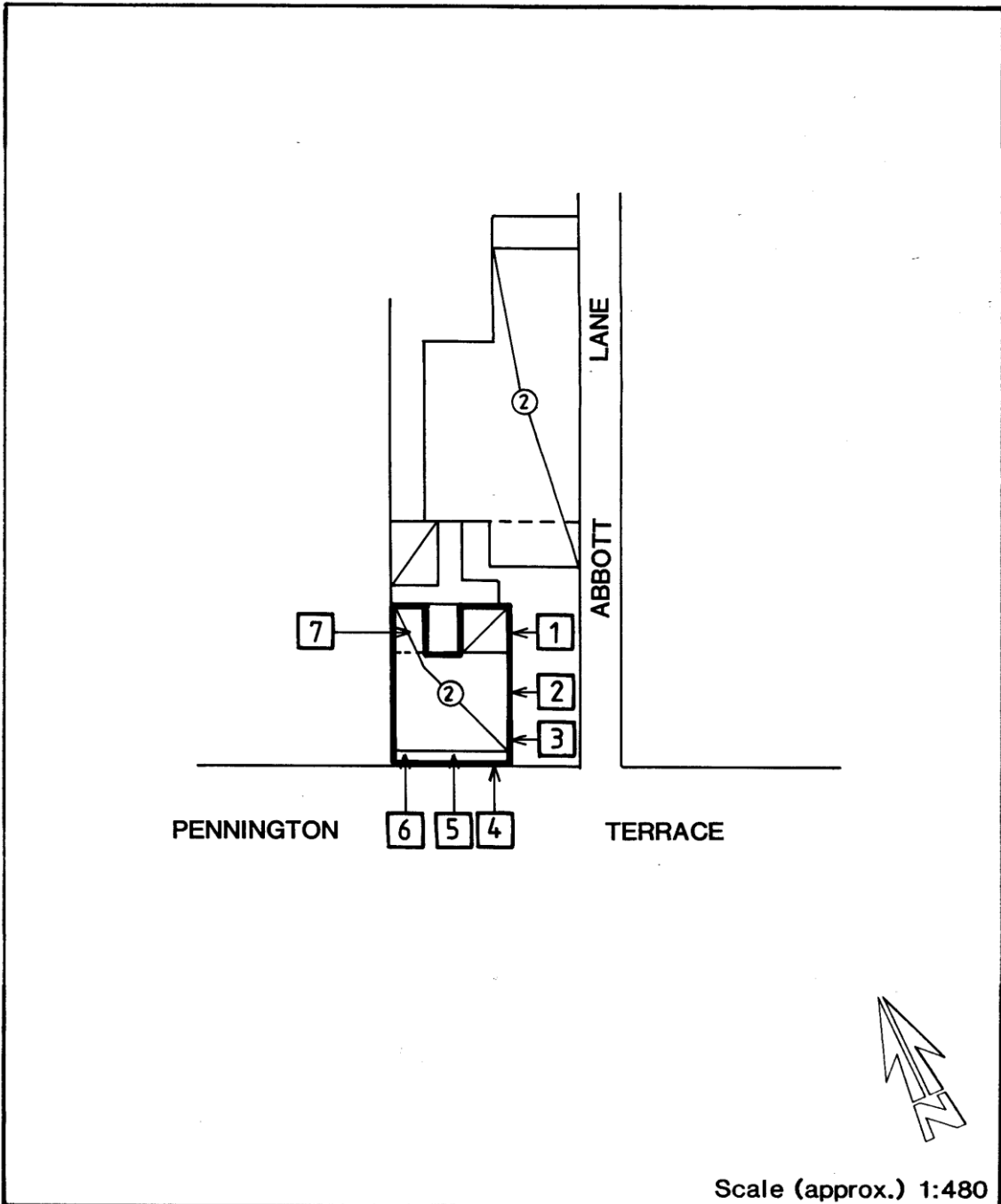


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NOTES:

1. Balcony at first floor level.
2. Rendered facade.
3. Note: Rusticated quoins.
4. Balcony/verandah with cast iron balustrading, frieze and spandrels.
5. Limestone rubble with stucco enrichment. (First floor construction differs from that of ground floor indicating subsequent additions.)
6. Note: Cast iron balustrading to openings under verandah at half basement level.
7. Asbestos addition at first floor level. Ground floor level only included in curtilage.