

## THE ADELAIDE OVAL

off King William Road

Cricket has been played in South Australia since its earliest colonial days. An advertisement which was placed in the *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register* in 1838 reads:

### *GENTLEMEN CRICKET PLAYERS*

*A meeting of Patrons of that Old English and manly game of Cricket will take place at the London Tavern, opposite Gilles Arcade on Monday evening, October 12th at seven o'clock precisely, for the purpose of forming a Club and making the necessary arrangements. Gentlemen wishing to join the Club are respectfully invited to attend.*

The first recorded match was played at Thebarton on 28 October 1839 between ' . . . Eleven Gentlemen of the Royal Victorian Independent Club and Eleven Gentlemen of Adelaide for 22 guineas a side'. The game in Adelaide did not expand dramatically until John Cocker arrived in Adelaide in 1846 (see *Kentish Arms*).

In 1859, 6 acres of the north Park Lands were leased, and in 1869 the South Australian Cricket Club initiated the idea of a central cricket ground with a co-ordinating cricketing association. On 31 May 1871 at a meeting in the Prince Alfred Hotel (now part of the Town Hall), the South Australian Cricket Association was established and a further meeting recommended a central location for the cricket ground. An act empowered the Corporation to lease a section of the Park Lands. The lease of the present grounds was granted in 1872 to Justice Gwynne, the Honourable Henry Ayers, and E.T. (later Sir Edwin) Smith, the association's first trustees.



The Sir Edwin Smith, the George Giffen and the Mostyn Evan Stands (CD Ref 2835/68)

A grandstand (possibly to the design of Wright and Reed) was opened for public use in 1882. This stand was the basis of the present George Giffen Stand, now much altered. It was first used in November 1882 at the match played between England and South Australia. The first test match was played in December 1884 when the mound was built and trees were planted.

In 1889 the original stand was extended at the rear by a dining saloon and ladies retiring rooms. A new adjoining stand was built with a bar and dressing-rooms below which was designed by English and Soward, the contractor being N.W. Trudgen.



Victor Richardson Gates (CD Ref 2835/73)

The present appearance of the stands dates from the 1920s when substantial upgrading and rebuilding was carried out. Column supported roofing was replaced by cantilevered structures. The alterations were designed by C.W. Rutt in the period 1923-29. The stands were named the John Creswell Stand (1923), Sir Edwin Smith Stand (1889), George Giffen Stand (1882) and Mostyn Evan Stand (1919-26). The only major items constructed since would appear to be the Victor Richardson Gates erected in 1967 in honour of Richardson (1894-1969) who was a famous cricketer and footballer in this state. The Sir Donald Bradman stand was opened 20 January 1990.

A tea-house and turnstiles date from 1905 and the scoreboard was erected in 1911. The structure was an early work of F. Kenneth Milne who first set up practice in Adelaide in 1909. It is an important example of



Victor Richardson Gates (CD Ref 2835/72)

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide



(CD Ref 2835/69)

architectural response to a new problem and received considerable attention when built due to its new features, in particular the layout of information. The parapet on the scoreboard is also of interest with its detailed cornice.

The scoreboard is a landmark of great significance and enhances the charm for which the Adelaide Oval is renowned.

ACA, *Digest of Proceedings*, 21 January 1889, 23 December 1907; Downer, S., *100 not out*, 1972, pp. 2-4, 9, 10, 27; Jensen, E., & R., *Colonial architecture in South Australia*, 1980, p. 564; South Australian Cricket Association, Annual reports, 1910-1912; *South Australian Gazette and Colonial Register*, 3 November 1838; Taylor, R., verbal information December 1988.

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 Sir Edwin Smith, the George Giffen and the Mostyn Evan Stands described in this Information Sheet are included in the Register of State Heritage places. The Victor Richardson Gates 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.*

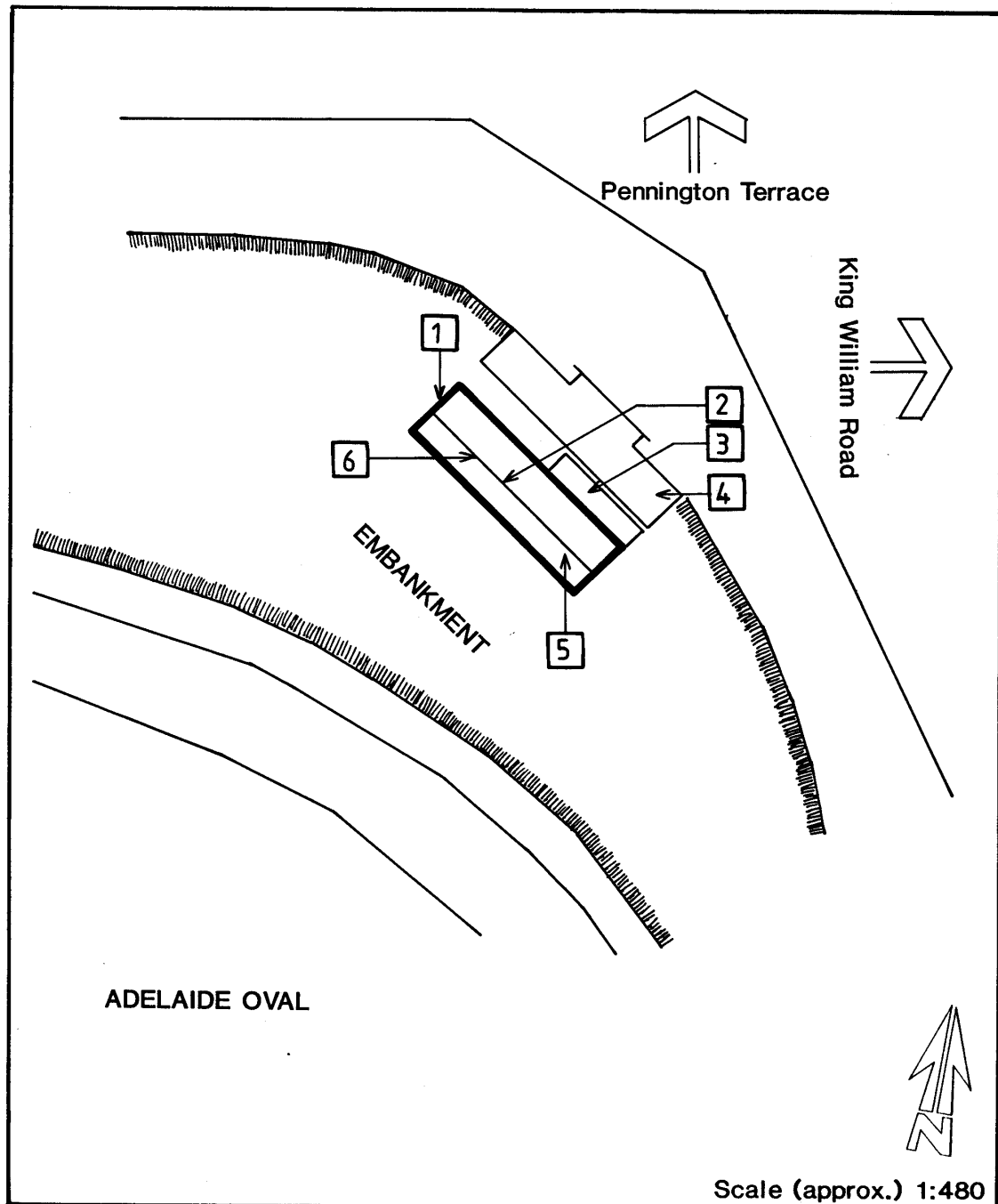


## CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

### The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	ADELAIDE OVAL SCORING BOARD	Building No
Address	Adelaide Oval (Pk. 26.05), off King William Road	260502



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Item ADELAIDE OVAL SCORING BOARD

Building No  
260502

Address Adelaide Oval (Pk. 26.05), off King William Road

#### NOTES:

1. Brick construction at ground floor level, timber and iron above.
2. Altered to incorporate bar.
3. Lean-to.
4. Brick (English Bond) toilets at rear.
5. Timber verandah.
6. Note: Parapet with clock.



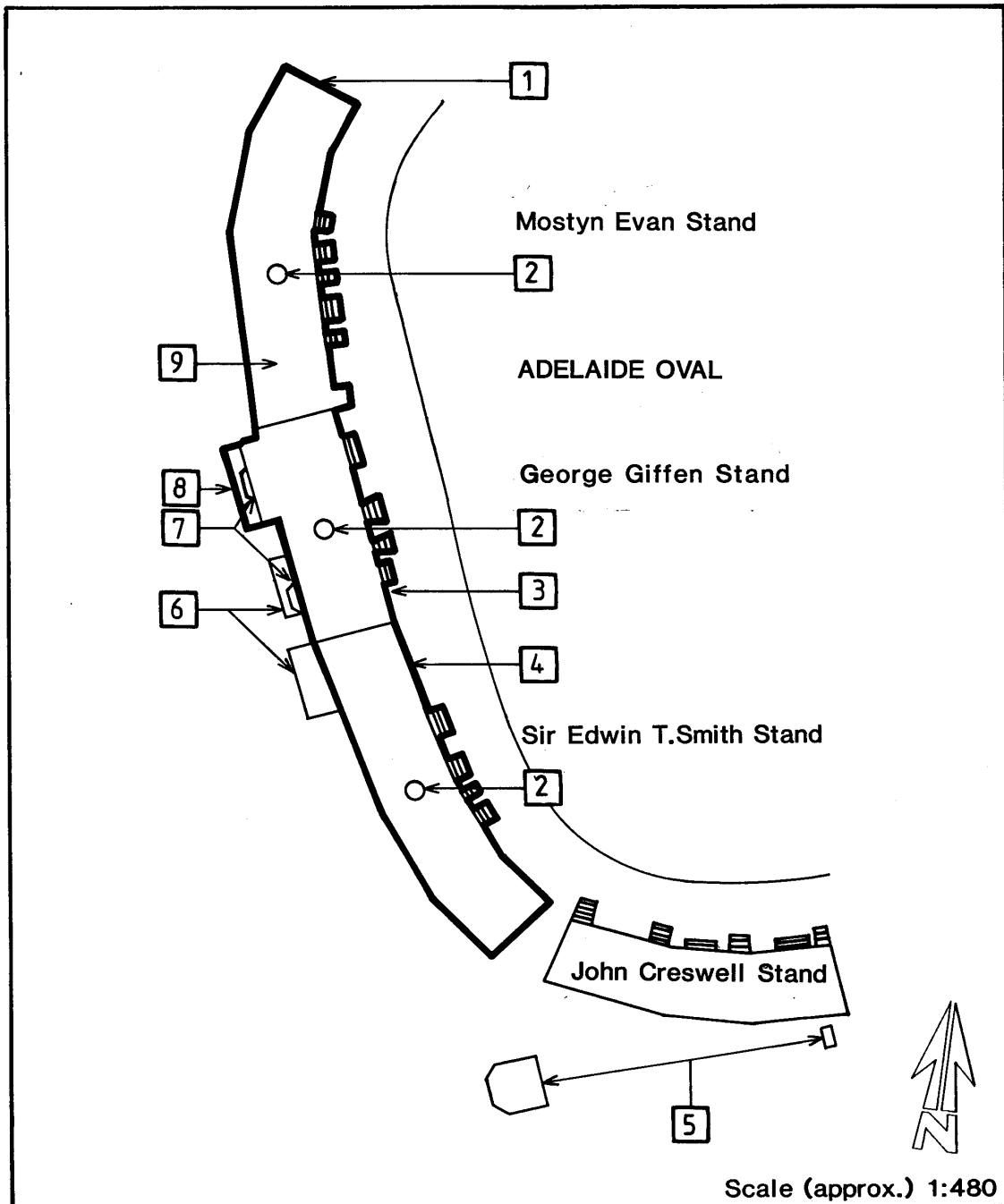


## CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

### The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANCE LOCATED WITHIN ADELAIDE OVAL	Building N <sup>o</sup> -
Address	Off King William Road (Pk. 26.05)	260501



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## CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

### The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

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Item	ITEMS OF SIGNIFICANCE LOCATED WITHIN ADELAIDE OVAL	Building N9 -
Address	Off King William Road (Pk. 26.05)	260501

#### NOTES:

1. Note: Opening with rendered columns and entablature.
2. Cupola.
3. Note: Base of 1882 stand.
4. Rendered.
5. Note: Proximity of former tea house and turnstile.
6. Brick additions.
7. Bay windows.
8. Brick portico with rendered parapet.
9. Brick construction (English bond). Note: Brick arches with concrete lintels.

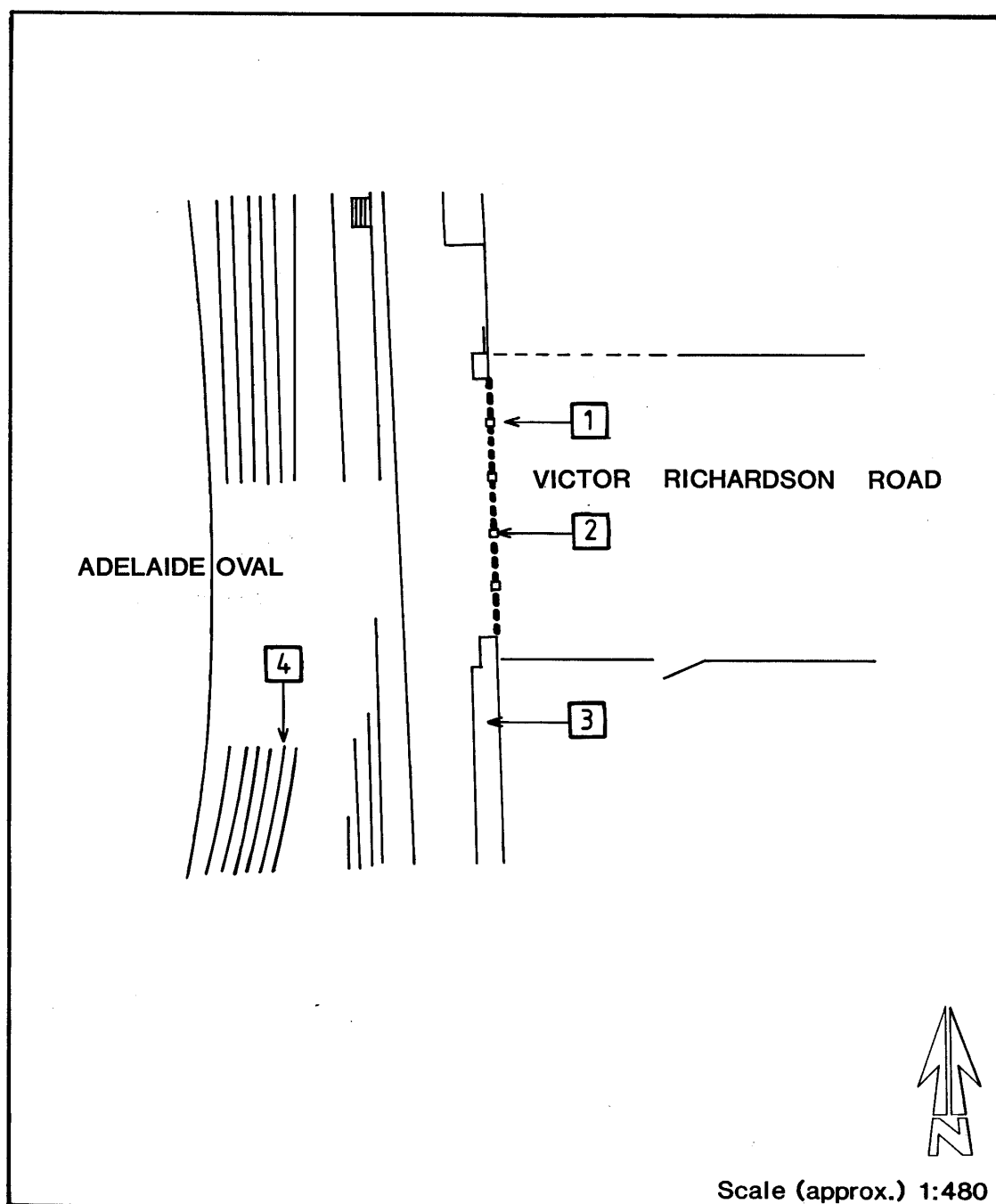


## CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

### The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	VICTOR RICHARDSON GATES	Building No
Address	Adelaide Oval, off Victor Richardson Road (Pk. 26.05)	260503



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## CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

### The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	VICTOR RICHARDSON GATES	Building N9
Address	Adelaide Oval, off Victor Richardson Road (Pk. 26.05)	260503

#### NOTES:

1. Steel construction.
2. Note: Motifs.
3. Ticket booths.
4. Tiered concrete steps.