

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIAL

Corner North Terrace and King William Road

The South African War Memorial is a magnificent equestrian statue displaying the sculptor's great knowledge of equine anatomy, form and action.

Upon the unveiling of the 'spirited horse and his stalwart rider' on 7 June 1904 the *Advertiser* reported the next day that the South African War Memorial:

... bears witness in imperishable bronze to the desire of the people of South Australia to keep for ever green the memory of those who fought and died for their country in the South African veldt.

This important statue is associated with the state's involvement in the Boer War, particularly the South Australian Bushmen's Corps. It is also a testament to the sentiments of the people of South Australia whose spontaneous monetary generosity towards a fitting memorial reflected the desire to remember the fifty-nine officers and men who lost their lives. Sixteen thousand volunteers from Australia took part in the war that lasted between October 1899 and June 1902. Nine contingents totalling eighty officers, 1449 men and 1507 horses were shipped from South Australia.

It is believed Mr J.C. F. Johnson first proposed an equestrian monument in July 1901. At a meeting held in the banqueting room of the Adelaide Town Hall in August 1901, a general committee was formed to raise £3000 by a variety of fund raising schemes. Activities got under way only one month later when two returned soldiers of the first South Australian contingent took a lecture tour round the mid-north of the state. Subscription lists were opened in newspapers and arrangements were made for school children and local military forces to contribute.

R.K. Thomas, a newspaper proprietor who was travelling to London in 1902 was asked by the committee to find a suitable sculptor.

Captain Adrian Jones, from Ludlow, Shropshire, was engaged. Trained as a veterinary surgeon with many years of military service in the British Army, Jones became an artist. For £1600 he offered to create a statue of a horse and rider 11 feet high. 'Jones' career as a whole was successful if unspectacular.' There are several large-scale works of his in public places in London. The most impressive is on top of Decimus Burton's Arch on Constitution Hill known as the Peace Quadriga, completed and positioned in 1912. The story goes that Jones held a dinner for eight people inside one of the horses before the Peace Quadriga was finished.

When preparations were under way for the coronation of Edward VII, colonial troops including Australians were stationed in London. Jones was able to meet an Adelaide based soldier to approve the sketch model he was preparing and to gain accurate information on uniform and equipment. Regimental quartermaster Sergeant George Henry Goodall of the staff of the Australian contingent was not only able to provide the relevant information needed but also sat for Jones so that a model of his head for the mounted trooper could be made. When the sketch model was approved and an order for a statue officially lodged, a

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design competition was held in Adelaide. Twelve designs for a pedestal were submitted in February 1903, Garlick, Sibley and Wooldridge winning the competition.

At this stage, the City Council stepped in and provided a suitable site - ' . . . a more appropriate or conspicuous position could not be desired', and altered footpaths, kerbing and the roadway to accommodate the statue on the King William Street and North Terrace intersection. The pedestal was constructed by W. Laycock in red Murray Bridge granite and the bronze shields and ribbon scrolls fitted to the side of the pedestal were cast by A.W. Dobbie and Company.

The bronze statue which arrived in South Australia on 7 May 1904 was soon lifted on to the prepared pedestal by an overhead travelling crane. The entire cost of the project was £2594.2.11.

The unveiling ceremony was on 6 June 1904 and according to the *Advertiser* the memorial was ' . . . so situated as to compel the admiration of everyone entering the city from the railway station or from North Adelaide . . . in fact it can be seen from every direction'.

In March 1988 D.W. Pedler, great nephew of G.H. Goodall, revealed the existence of the plaster model of the statue, presently in Ludlow, Shropshire, England.

Advertiser, 7 June 1904; *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (10th ed.), 1902, Vol. 32, p. 477; *Ludlow Heritage News*, No. 5, May 1986; *Ludlow Journal*, 4 March 1988; MLSA, Historical photographs; Pedler, D.W., Submission report of the South African War Memorial for nomination on the Register of State Heritage Items; Samuels, B., Verbal information, April 1988; *Shropshire Star*, 5 March 1988; State Heritage Branch, 6628-13349, September 1985, South African War Memorial; Weinneb, B., & Hibbert, C. (eds), *The London encyclopaedia*, 1983, p. 194; Wickham Legg, L.G. (ed), *Dictionary of national biography, 1931-1940*, 1949, p. 496.

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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.

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	BOER WAR MEMORIAL	Building N ^o
Address	Corner North Terrace and King William Road,	

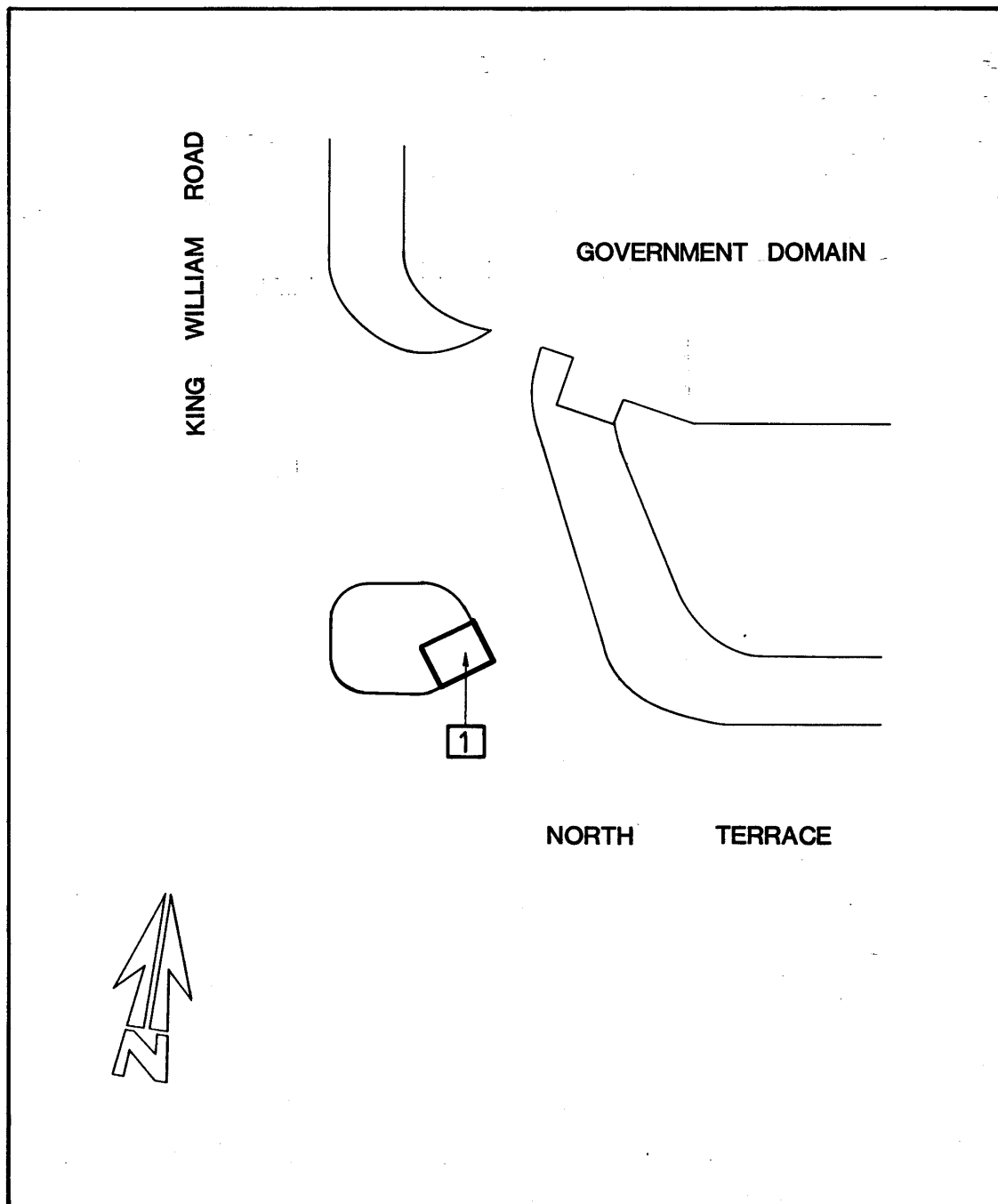


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NOTES:

1. Statue of mounted soldier surmounting large pedestal on traffic island.