

# WAR MEMORIAL

Corner North Terrace and Kintore Avenue

A National War Memorial Committee was appointed by parliament immediately after the First World War in 1919. Those invited to contribute were the Institute of Architects, Institute of Surveyors, Society of Arts, Town Planning and Housing associations and the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League. The committee favoured a decorative rather than a utilitarian memorial and proposed sites at the Torrens Parade Ground and in the Government House domain. However, difficulties regarding the relocation of the governor's residence could not be overcome. After protracted negotiation and varied financial estimates, all that could be reported in 1923 was that 'It is a matter for very serious regret that at the end of four years, nothing whatever should have been done to give our soldiers a permanent memorial in the centre of this State'.

During a debate in parliament in 1925 a member proposed that:

*. . . surely there is room for both the Governor and a suitable memorial . . . It should still be possible to give the Governor sufficient privacy without destroying the beauty of the grounds, or indeed the old world elegance of the building. The site so utilised will save thousands of pounds to the State, will avoid further and unnecessary bitterness, and above all will result in continuing the essentials of convenience and beauty for both the memorial and the King's representative.*

A subsequent suggestion was that the entirety of North Terrace, fences, landscaping and statues including the War Memorial, be coherently grouped to emphasise the North Terrace boulevard. Mr Birrell stated in the House of Assembly in August, 'I favour the removal of Government House and the abolition of State Governors, but I do not agree that what is proposed to be done to Government House grounds is the right thing. The War Memorial should be on Montefiore Hill'. Mr Richards sarcastically retorted, 'Why not have it on Mt Lofty?'.



(CD Ref 2835/58)

Competition designs had been received but all the entries were destroyed by fire and the work of the War Memorial Committee began again. The committee assumed that Government House would be removed and all of the acres used for a national war memorial. The character of the design and the treatment of the surroundings were left entirely open to competitors.

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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It was suggested that the memorial take the form of a Shrine of Memory with provision for housing records. In 1926 the corner of Kintore Avenue and North Terrace was the site decided upon for the memorial.

The winning entry, termed the 'Spirit of Sacrifice' was by the firm of Woods, Bagot, Jory and Laybourne Smith. The memorial was eventually unveiled on 18 April 1931. Full descriptions of the symbolism of statuary and the obverse and reverse of the memorial arch and details about those responsible for the structure are contained in the *Advertiser* of 22 April and 25 April 1931.



(CD Ref 2835/57)

Walkley, G., *Louis Laybourne Smith: a memoir*, 1977, pp. 17-18.

The sculptural models were created by the Sydney sculptor G. Rayner-Hoff, with casting by A.W. Dobbie & Co Ltd under the supervision of W.G. Laycock. The memorial which has recently been cleaned and repaired remains of considerable environmental significance and is an integral part of the cultural role and townscape character of North Terrace.

*Advertiser*, 22, 25 April 1931; *Builder*, 13 May 1925, p. 5; MLSA, BRG18/35 photograph collection of Woods Bagot, BRGIS/53 *The Mutual Provident Messenger*, No. 9, Vol. XL; Old Parliament House Library, Lands Department photographs; PRO, GRG 240/163/13/10.8.1926; SAPD, 4 September 1923, col. 459-64, 18 September 1923, col. 548-52, 21 July 1925, col. 51, 22 July 1925, col. 75, 23 July 1925, col. 88-90, 95-7, 112-13, 29 July 1925, col. 166, 174-8, 180, 6 August 1925, col. 337-8, 24 November 1925, col. 1831;

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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.*

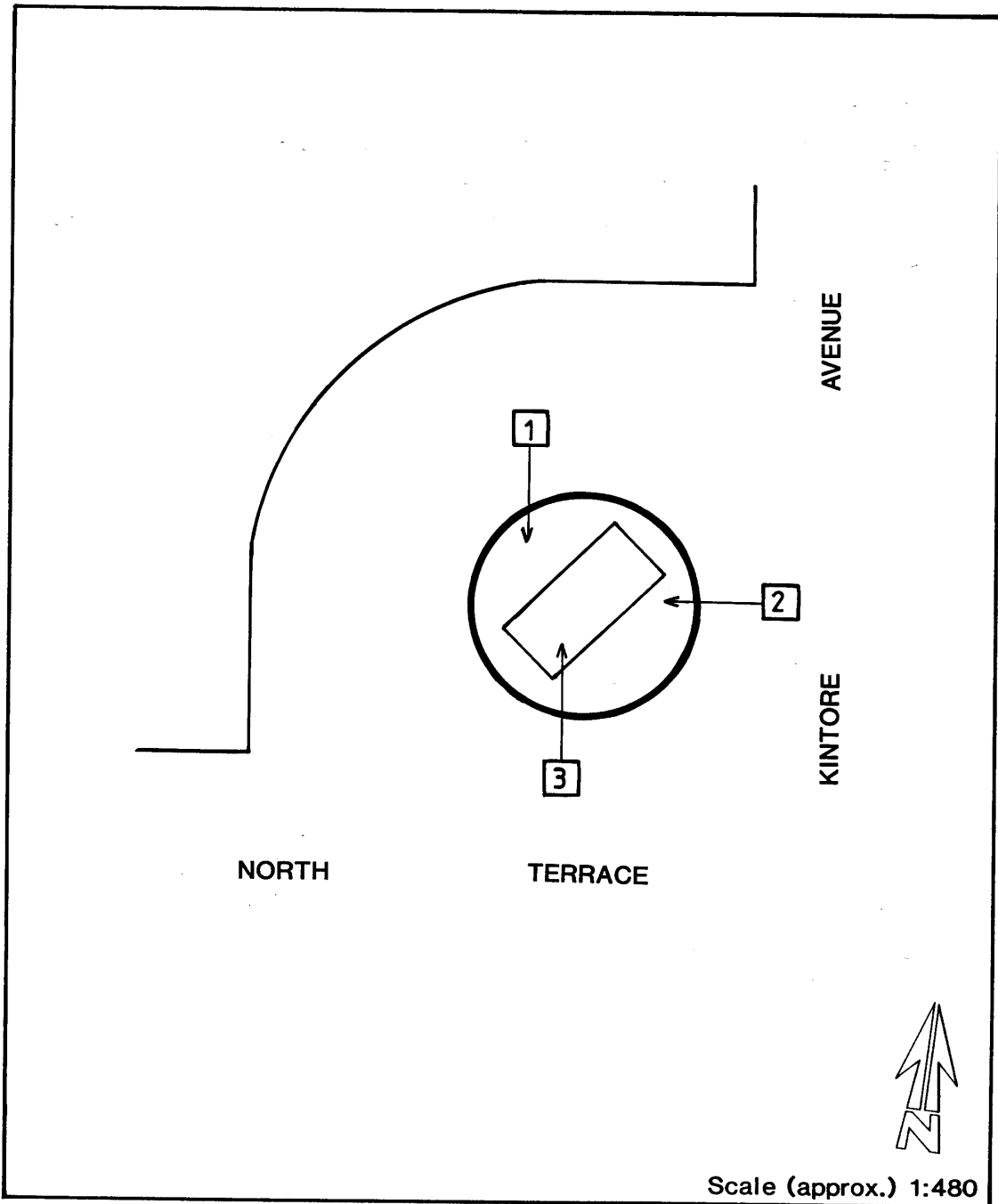


# CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

## The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	WAR MEMORIAL	Building No	128001
Address	Corner Kintore Avenue and North Terrace, Park No. 12.80		



Scale (approx.) 1:480

***Image scanned - not to stated scale.***

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### NOTES:

1. Fountain.
2. Plinth steps and statuary.
3. "Triumphal" arch.