

SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

REGISTER ENTRY

Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

NAME: Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')

PLACE NO.: 26541

ADDRESS: Karna Country

5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate

CT 5781/436 F109086 A20 Hundred of Yatala

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') is an outstanding and early example of Inter-war Old English architecture in South Australia, displaying many of the key characteristics of the style, notably: picturesque asymmetry; vertical proportions; imitation half-timbering to multiple gable ends; red-face-brick walls; and extensive interior detailing including timber beams and mouldings to ceiling, timber door and window surrounds, multi-pane windows and bespoke fireplaces. The Dwelling also influenced the wider adoption of the Inter-war Old English style in South Australia during the 1920s and 1930s.

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') has a special association with FW Dancker and Son, a prominent architectural firm that operated in South Australia from 1880 to 1944 and was known for the quality of its residential designs. The Dwelling's interior layout and use of materials closely follows the design tenets proposed by Frederick Dancker in his 1904 *Modern Dwellings* publication. However, the design of 'Woodgate' also established a new direction for the firm as Frederick's son, Eric Dancker transitioned from student to partner in his father's company.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (under section 16 of the Heritage Places Act 1993)

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') demonstrates a high degree of creative and aesthetic accomplishment and is an outstanding representative of the Inter-war Old English architectural style, which was one of many housing styles adopted across South Australia in the interwar period.

The red-brick house with gables featuring imitation half-timbering is a well resolved and aesthetically pleasing design that features many characteristics of Inter-war Old English architecture, including:

- Free-standing domestic-scaled dwelling, particularly evidenced by the southern elevation that presents to the street.
- Picturesque asymmetry to southern and eastern elevations.
- Vertical proportions achieved through the use of multiple gables to each elevation.
- Imitation half-timbering to gables (northern, western, southern and part eastern elevations) with timber bargeboards, and extension of imitation half-timbering to the wall associated with the gable to southern elevation.
- Several elaborate, tall red-brick chimneys.
- Red face brick to walls.
- Windows featuring multi-panes creating lead-light effect in a variety of patterns including diamond.
- Extensive use of interior elements associated with 'Old English' interiors, including timber beams and mouldings to ceilings; large and elaborate fireplaces to hall, dining and billiard rooms; and timberwork to door and window surrounds.

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') has been recognised by the South Australian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects (the Institute) as one of the top 100 20th century buildings in South Australia. The Institute described the house as a 'paradigm of English vernacular revival domestic architecture' (Old English or Tudor) that 'sets the pattern for 1930s builders' Tudor in Adelaide'.

(g) it has special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') has special associations with the work of FW Dancker and Son, a well-respected South Australian architectural practice. Residential architecture was the mainstay of the firm's work, with nearly 200 known designs for houses completed between 1880 and 1944, most of which were built. Frederick Dancker's book *Modern Dwellings: 100 selected designs* provides a record of and understanding into his approach to designing homes. Published in 1904, just prior to Eric beginning his articles, *Modern Dwellings* also informed Eric's work.

While a number of buildings designed by FW Dancker and Son are State Heritage listed, of which seven are dwellings, all have been attributed to Frederick Dancker and with the exception of four places commissioned while Eric was an articled student, date from the earliest period of the firm's work when Frederick was a sole practitioner.

Although the attribution of Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') remains unclear, the design is likely Eric Dancker's work. The exterior design represents a stylistic shift from the residential designs of Frederick and heralds the beginning of numerous commissions for houses in the Inter-War Old English style. The design and construction of Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') also coincides with Eric completing his architectural studies and becoming a partner of FW Dancker and Son in 1913.

However, while the exterior form of the dwelling is a stylistic step change, many elements of the design, internal configuration and materials choices of Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') closely follow the design considerations for laying out a home as presented in *Modern Dwellings*.

Thus, Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') has a special association with the work of FW Dancker and Son as it demonstrates the firm's transition from Federation Queen Anne to the Inter-war Old English architectural style as well as setting a new direction for the firm as Eric transitioned from articled student to qualified architect and partner.

SITE PLAN

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')
5 Fitzroy Place, Thorngate

PLACE NO.: 26541



Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') (CT 5781/436 F109086 A20 Hundred of Yatala)

Elements of significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Exterior form and detailing of the dwelling, including eave brackets, red-face brick, imitation half-timbering to gables and wall, terra cotta roof tiles, chimneys, verandahs, porch, patio/terrace with low-brick walls with herringbone brick paving.
- Red-brick fence to street.
- Interior details, fireplaces, mantles and surrounds in hall, drawing, dining and billiard rooms, timber beams and mouldings to ceilings, and decorative trusses with gargoyles and archways as currently stained or painted, timber surrounds to doors and windows as currently stained or painted, timber cupboards to corridor (stained).
- Multi-pane windows in variety of patterns as used throughout.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Garden, tennis court, rainwater tanks, garage and later northern addition.

LEGEND

N ↑

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

Physical Description

'Woodgate' is a large domestic dwelling designed in c.1912 and constructed by 1915 in the Inter-War Old English architectural style. It features a multi-gabled roof, clad in terra cotta tiles and red-face-brick walls on a red-face-brick plinth with curved redbrick capping. Other exterior architectural features include:

- gables on northern, western, southern and part eastern elevations, with timber barge-boards,
- imitation half-timbering to gables, achieved by applying battens rather than true timbering, with predominantly vertical battens, some horizontal members and curved decorative bracing to the western gable,
- white-painted board behind gable timbering,
- finials to all but rear gables,
- jettied (projecting) southern gable with coved soffit and imitation half-timbering on wall below,
- red-face-brick to remaining gables on eastern elevation, with Roman (thin) brick detailing,
- bay windows to southern and western elevations,
- wrought iron eave brackets,
- main entrance porch approached via a patio/terrace enclosed with a low red-brick wall and featuring red-brick paving in herringbone pattern, leading to an enclosed porch featuring an arched entry with stepped-red-brick detailing, tile paving, elaborate moulding to ceiling and solid timber door,
- blind red-brick arches above some windows on eastern elevation with red-brick herringbone nogging,
- other windows feature red-brick decorative lintels in herringbone pattern, or gently curved arches,
- three verandahs incorporated into the main roof structure, one to the rear (north), another to the west (accessible from the billiard room) and the last to the east (accessed from the master and second bedrooms (east)),
- porch providing covered access to the service areas (west),
- several chimneys, employing a variety of decorative features achieved through the brickwork.

Interior

The internal configuration of the house features:

- large hall providing access to the drawing, dining and billiard rooms and a corridor to bed and bathrooms to the rear of the house,
- timber floor to hall [original] with wide carpet runner [not original fabric],
- timber beams and decorative trusses to hall ceiling with carved gargoyles,
- timber surrounds to hall doors (two single doors to drawing room, double doors to dining and billiard rooms),
- bespoke designed and elaborately painted concrete fire surround and mantle in hall,
- billiard room accessed from hall via double timber doors, featuring timber door and window surrounds, timber beams and mantel to fireplace, and timber panelling to window seat located in bay window,
- drawing room featuring timber door, fireplace with copper and tile surround and white-painted timber mantle, white-painted window surrounds with multi-pane windows in rectangular (eastern) and lozenge (southern) patterns, with clear glass, and decorative moulding to ceiling (painted white),
- dining room featuring timber door and window surrounds (painted white), timber cornicing and timber battens in honeycomb pattern to ceiling, bespoke designed elaborate painted concrete mantle and fire surround, bay window with window seat (painted white) and multi-pane windows in clear glass featuring a diamond pattern,
- servery and butler's pantry adjoining the dining room, the butler's pantry featuring built-in cabinetry for china and glassware, while the servery contains a sink, has a linoleum floor and provides access to the cellar,
- kitchen accessed from the servery and featuring linoleum to floor, large windows over the sink, additional small windows above bench tops with diamond patterned multi-pane clear glass and view to verandah,
- scullery adjoining kitchen, featuring white-tile splashback, linoleum to floor, built-in cupboards and sink, and external door to porch,
- laundry accessed from scullery with painted concrete floor and external door to back verandah,
- long corridor extending from the hall, providing access to a series of bed and bath rooms, featuring two built-in timber cupboards, timber surrounds to doors and a timber arch at the interface between hall and corridor and external door opening onto the back verandah.
- secondary corridor running perpendicular from the main corridor, linking with the kitchen and providing access to two small bedrooms and a bathroom,
- master bedroom featuring white-painted moulding to ceiling, timber mantle and white painted brick surround and metal fireplace, exterior door to verandah, multi-pane clear glass windows, and timber cupboards with an opening through to dressing room,

- dressing room features white-painted built-in cupboards and multi-pane windows,
- main bathroom accessible from both dressing room and corridor, featuring multi-pane windows and updated bathroom fit out [not original fabric],
- a further five bedrooms and a bathroom at the end of the corridor, with external access to the verandah from second bedroom.

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Exterior form and detailing of the dwelling, including eave brackets, red-face brick, imitation half-timbering to gables and wall, terra cotta roof tiles, chimneys, verandahs, porch, patio/terrace with low-brick walls with herringbone brick paving,
- Red-brick fence to street,
- Fireplaces, mantles and surrounds in hall, dining and billiard rooms,
- Timber beams and mouldings to ceilings, and decorative trusses with gargoyles and archways as currently stained or painted,
- Timber surrounds to doors and windows as currently stained or painted,
- Timber cupboards to corridor (stained),
- Multi-pane windows in variety of patterns as used throughout.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Garden,
- Tennis court,
- Rainwater tanks,
- Garage,
- Later northern addition.

History of the Place

Lisle Gardner Johnson (the first owner of 'Woodgate') was born in 1878 at Medindie and was the youngest son of James Angas Johnson and one of many great grandchildren of George Fife Angas. Educated at Whinham College, Lisle left school aged 14 to work in his father's office. In 1902, James died and Lisle took on the ownership and management of 'Hazeleigh', a pastoral station encompassing about 4,000 acres located near Saddleworth in the Mid North.¹

Lisle ran 'Hazeleigh' as a sheep stud, importing Dorset Horns to improve the quality of his meat flock, however, the property was noted for its flocks of both Dorset Horn and Merino sheep. Lisle also grew wheat, bred ponies, and improved the land by replanting trees as shelter for the livestock and also to beautify the environment. In

addition to running 'Hazeleigh' Lisle also ran a real estate and land agent business from 56 Franklin Street, Adelaide and was a Justice of the Peace.²

The reason for constructing 'Woodgate' was most likely Lisle's marriage to Marjorie McMillan Henderson on 4 March 1911.³ The plan of 'Woodgate' was commissioned from FW Dancker and Son in 1912 for a site on Robe Terrace, Prospect. It is not clear if the site at Fitzroy Terrace was the original intended location for the house, as the Thorngate subdivision was not sold until December 1913. Of the 54 allotments offered for sale, all but six were sold. The subdivision aimed to maximise the number of allotments for sale and did not take into consideration emerging ideas about town planning (city beautiful and garden city/suburb) then being widely discussed and popularised in the newspapers.⁴

The Johnson family are recorded as living in the house at 5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate by 1915. The couple had three daughters and a son, with some of the children being born in the house. At some point the house was extended, adding bedrooms to the rear. It is unclear when this extension took place, however, the materials closely match the initial build and stylistically follow the original design. While the date of construction for the garage also remains unclear, it is possible that it was built in 1919, the same year Mrs Johnson purchased a Hudson 29.4HP motor car.⁵

Lisle died c.1963. Marjorie continued to live at 'Woodgate' for many years and died in c.1986. 'Woodgate' was then owned by Lisle and Marjorie's youngest daughter and son-in-law, Patty (Enid Lisle) and Dr Peter Verco. It seems that Patty and Peter moved in with Marjorie at some point during the 1960s. During this time Peter also had medical rooms on North Terrace, Adelaide and at 63 Palmer Place, North Adelaide. Patty was known for her work with the National Council of Women South Australia, while Peter introduced percutaneous arteriography, cerebral angiography, aortography and modern methods of ventriculography and tomography to Australia in the early 1950s and obstetric ultrasound to Adelaide in 1973.⁶

After both Peter and Patty died, respectively in 2000 and 2020, the property passed into the executorship of two of their children William Verco and Rosetta Boucaut (nee Verco). In 2022, 'Woodgate' was placed on the market as a deceased estate.

FW Dancker and Son

Frederick William Dancker and his son Eric Phillips Dancker are well respected South Australian architects who are best known for their extensive portfolio of residential commissions, designing nearly 200 houses, most of which were constructed. Frederick was born in Macclesfield in 1852, and after a failed attempt to study naval architecture in the United Kingdom, studied architecture in Melbourne before being

articled to prominent Adelaide architect Daniel Garlick in the 1870s. In 1880, Frederick established his own practice and worked as a sole practitioner until 1905, when Eric (his son) was articled to him.⁷

By 1913, Eric had completed his studies, and Frederick and Eric entered into partnership as FW Dancker and Son. Frederick continued to practice until about 1931, retiring after being injured in an accident, while Eric continued the business until 1944.⁸ Both Frederick and Eric wrote about architecture, notably Frederick who published the book *Modern Dwellings: 100 selected designs* in 1904 drawing on current thinking about house design, while Eric would later write a series of articles on a variety of architectural and town planning topics for South Australian newspapers in the 1930s.⁹

Although *Modern Dwellings* is largely a sales catalogue featuring house designs suitable for a range of budgets, Frederick does reveal his beliefs about the essential characteristics of a well-designed home; tenets of design that his son Eric would be exposed to as an articled student within a year of the book being published.

According to Frederick:

[an architect's] endeavour is to produce designs whose only ornament is comprised in the refinement of the graceful lines of strictly utilitarian features without assertive attempt at effect, but always pleasing in its subdued natural tones, without deception in material nor guise in construction, but throughout honestly indicating its purpose.¹⁰

The arrangement of the plan was to be 'governed by utility' which would result in 'convenience, comfort and healthfulness'. Although the overall style of the home was a matter of individual taste, a range of suggested features were illustrated in the dozens of examples contained in *Modern Homes*. Frederick also provided advice on other aspects of design, including internal layouts and materials choices.¹¹

Chronology

Year	Event
1870s	Frederick Dancker is articled to architect Daniel Garlick.
1878	Lisle Gardner Johnson is born.
1880	Frederick establishes his own architectural practice.
c.1892	Lisle leaves school to join his father's business.
1902	Lisle inherits 'Hazeleigh' and imports Dorset Horns to improve quality of meat stock.
1904	Frederick publishes <i>Modern Dwellings: 100 selected designs</i>.
1905	Eric Dancker begins his articles as an architectural student with his father, Frederick.
1911	Lisle marries Marjorie McMillan Henderson.
1912	Eric Dancker prepares perspective watercolour of 'Woodgate'
1913	Thorngate estate is sold. Eric completes his architecture studies and enters into partnership with Frederick to form FW Dancker and Son.
1913-1915	'Woodgate' is constructed at 5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate and the Johnson family move into the house.
1931	An accident results in Frederick retiring.
1944	Eric stops practicing as an architect after being charged with indecent behaviour and is sentenced to a term of imprisonment. Eric was likely homosexual or bisexual and was charged after he was reported to police for an encounter with an 18 year old man.
c.1963	Lisle dies.
c.1986	Marjorie dies and Lisle and Marjorie's youngest daughter and son-in-law Patty (Enid Lisle) and Dr Peter Verco become the owners of 'Woodgate'.
2020	Patty dies.
2022	'Woodgate' is prepared and offered for sale as a deceased estate.

References

- Our Pastoral Industry* (1910), (The Australian Garden and Field Proprietary: Adelaide).
- Apperly, Richard, Irving, Robert and Reynolds, Peter (2011), *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, (Angas and Robertson: North Ryde).
- Burgess, HT (1907), *The Cyclopedia of South Australia*, (Cyclopedia Company Alfred G Selway: Adelaide).
- Collins, Julie (2008), 'Dancker, Frederick William', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=12
- Dancker, Frederick (1904), *Modern Dwellings: 100 Selected Designs*, (FW Dancker: Adelaide).
- Schenk, John, 2013) 'Dancker, Eric Phillips', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=123
- Garnaut, Christine (1999), *Colonel Light Gardens Model Garden Suburb*, (Crossing Press: Sydney).
- Sands and McDougall, *South Australian Directory* see various for years 1910-1973, <https://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/c.php?g=410329&p=2794474>
- 'Marriage Johnson-Henderson', *The Advertiser* 6 March 1911, p.8.
- 'The Motoring World', *Register* 8 January 1919, p.5.
- 'Thorngate Subdivision', *The Mail* 20 December 1913, p.2.
- <https://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/c.php?g=410329&p=2794474>
- Verco, Patty (Enid Lisle) (2020), <https://www.mytributes.com.au/notice/death-notices/verco-patty-enid-lisle/5474237/?rs=19>
- Verco, Peter Willis (2000) <https://www.eoas.info/biogs/P003325b.htm>

SITE DETAILS

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')

PLACE NO.: 26541

5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate

FORMER NAME:	'Woodgate'
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	House in Inter-war Old English architectural style, featuring multiple gables with imitation half-timbering, red-face brick walls and terra cotta tile clad roof.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	c. 1913-1914
REGISTER STATUS:	Two nominations: 19 February 2022 & 23 February 2022 Provisional Entry TBC
CURRENT USE:	Vacant c.2020-2022
PREVIOUS USE(S):	House/ family home c.1915-c.2020
ARCHITECT:	FW Dancker and Son, likely Eric Phillips Dancker c.1912
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	[LGA]
LOCATION:	Street No.: 5 Street Name: Fitzroy Terrace Town/Suburb: Thorngate Post Code: 5082
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title CT 5781/436 F109086 A20 Reference: Hundred: Yatala

PHOTOS

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')

PLACE NO.: 26541

5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate



Southern elevation (facing Fitzroy Terrace), note domestic-scale, covered soffit between jettied gable and wall, imitation half-timbering, chimneys, eave brackets, and terra cotta roof tiles.



Part east elevation showing main entrance, note patio/terrace with stepped-brick detailing to arch, triple gables with Roman brick detailing, and arch feature over window.

NOTE: All images are from DEW Files unless otherwise specified and where taken during the site visit on 22 March 2022.

PHOTOS

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')

PLACE NO.: 26541

5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate



Western elevation looking south, note the porch providing direct access to scullery



Western elevation looking north, showing garage and verandah accessed from billiard room and over which the dining room and kitchen have views. Note the curved imitation half-timbered bracing, and stepped and patterned brickwork to chimney.

PHOTOS

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')

PLACE NO.: 26541

5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate



Views of the rear of the house, showing roof forms, verandah and imitation half-timbering to gables.



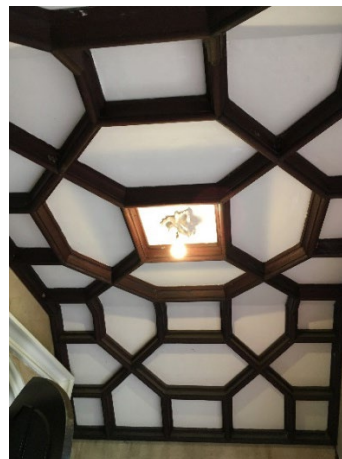
Part western elevation showing the verandah between master bedroom and second bedroom. Both bedrooms have access to the verandah, while the dressing room overlooks it. Note column, and red-brick plinth with curved red-brick capping.

PHOTOS

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')

PLACE NO.: 26541

5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate



Front door and timber moulding to entrance porch ceiling



Hallway, note timber beams, floor, surrounds to door (to billiard room), fireplace, multi-pane windows.

PHOTOS

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')

PLACE NO.: 26541

5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate



Detail, bespoke designed fireplace for the hall (painted concrete).



Detail, example of a gargoyle and timberwork in hallway.



Drawing room, note the windows and detailing to ceiling

PHOTOS

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')
5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate

PLACE NO.: 26541



Billiard room, note the window seat, fireplace and surround, door to verandah, detail to ceiling.



Dining room, note detailing to ceiling and fireplace.

PHOTOS

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')
5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate

PLACE NO.: 26541



Kitchen, note natural lighting.



Master bedroom showing cabinetry to dressing room, door to verandah, fireplace, etc.

PHOTOS

Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')
5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate

PLACE NO.: 26541



Passage showing partial detail linen cupboards, door surrounds, etc

-
- ¹ HT Burgess (1907), *The Cyclopedia of South Australia*, (Cyclopedia Company Alfred G Selway: Adelaide), p.620.
- ² *Our Pastoral Industry* (1910), (The Australian Garden and Field Proprietary: Adelaide), pp.183-189. Sands and McDougall, *South Australian Directory* see various for years 1910-1973, <https://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/c.php?g=410329&p=2794474>
- ³ 'Marriage Johnson-Henderson', *The Advertiser* 6 March 1911, p.8.
- ⁴ 'Thorngate Subdivision', *The Mail* 20 December 1913, p.2. Christine Garnaut, *Colonel Light Gardens Model Garden Suburb*, p.18
- ⁵ Sands and McDougall, (1915) *South Australian Directory*, <https://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/c.php?g=410329&p=2794474>
- 'The Motoring World', *Register* 8 January 1919, p.5.
- ⁶ Verco, Patty (Enid Lisle) (2020), <https://www.mytributes.com.au/notice/death-notices/verco-patty-enid-lisle/5474237/?rs=19> Verco, Peter Willis (2000) <https://www.eoas.info/biogs/P003325b.htm>
- ⁷ Julie Collins, (2008), 'Dancker, Frederick William', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=12
- John Schenk, 2013), 'Dancker, Eric Phillips', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=123
- ⁸ Julie Collins, (2008), 'Dancker, Frederick William', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=12
- John Schenk, 2013), 'Dancker, Eric Phillips', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=123
- ⁹ John Schenk, 2013), 'Dancker, Eric Phillips', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=123
- ¹⁰ Frederick Dancker (1904), *Modern Dwellings: 100 Selected Designs*, FW Dancker: Adelaide), p.2.
- ¹¹ *Modern Dwellings*, pp. 2-9.