

To: The South Australian Heritage Committee
From: The Senior Historic Architect
Subject: REGISTER NOMINATION:
- TORTOLA HOUSE, CORNER OF TOD AND DUNDAS STREET, GAWLER
(Also known as the Uniting Church Manse)
Date: 25 January, 1982

SUMMARY

This report is prepared as part of the Register Sub-Committee's programme of evaluating items listed on the Register of the National Estate.

Historically, "Tortola" is significant for its association with two prominent Gawler industrialists and (from 1912) its use as a manse by the Methodist (now Uniting) Church.

Architecturally, the building is a pleasant two storey asymmetric brick building with cloistered balcony and verandah. The diaper brickwork to the front facade is rare and well executed - it is certainly an early and rare example of polychrome and diaper brickwork which to my knowledge is rivalled only by Parkside's former 'Z' Ward.

Environmentally, "Tortola" is an important element with a historical and architectural precinct. Visually, it is an important landmark.

The Integrity of the building is good with only minor structural alterations having been made. "Tortola" is in good structural condition.

"Tortola" is included on the Register of the National Estate and on the Classified List of the National Trust of South Australia.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Tortola House and its front fence be included on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorised A1, A2, A3, H2, H3, 3.1.



Barry G. Rowney
SENIOR HISTORIC ARCHITECT

MAB:BAH

25.1.82

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures Item TORTOLA HOUSE AND FRONT FENCE, CORNER OF TOD AND DUNDAS STREET, GAWLER.					
Age 1860's; Circa 1870's.	Theme	Office				
Period 1852 - 1883	Subject PERSON'S HABITATION - HOUSING	Region Lower North				
Building Type HOUSE	Style VICTORIAN "ITALIANATE"	Status N.E.R. N.Tr. (C.L.)				
<u>Qualitative Data</u> Component <u>History</u>		Grading E VG AG FP NA				
1. Context: Residence for important identities associated with Gawler's early industry and later with the Methodist Church. 2. Person/Group: Built for W.F. Winney - Timber Merchant, Gawler Councillor, Mayor (1873-4) and Treasurer of Tod Street Wesleyan Church. Later owned by Alfred May, who in 1885, with his brother Frederick, founded the May Bros. & Co. Ltd. machine shops, famous for their mining machinery. In 1912, "Tortola" was purchased by the Tod Street Methodist Church. 3. Specific Event: Not as yet established.		*				
<u>Architecture/Engineering</u> 4. Architect/Engineer/Builder Not yet established.						*
5. Design: Two distinct construction stages; Cottage section is of simple yet bold design. Two storey section has pleasing two storey asymmetric design with dominating cloisters and diaper brickwork. Originally a lookout was located on the rooftop.		*				
6. Construction: Both sections of masonry construction. Red and 'white' bricks to front facade. Blue-stone to side and rear. Excellent example of diaper brickwork to front. Cast iron column to cloisters (including concrete infill arches). The cast iron baluster on the brick fence appears to be a later addition.		*				
7. Interior: Spatial interior with restrained ornamentation. Rooms adorned with ceiling roses, coved cornices and marble fire surrounds. Well constructed timber staircase (three flights) leads to upper level and lookout door.					*	

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Component	Comment	Grading				
		E	VG	AG	FP	NA
8. Representation:	A unique building. An excellent and extremely rare example of "front facadism".	*				
9. Continuity:	Important element which maintains the dominant character of the area.		*			
10. Local Character:	Important in establishing and maintaining the dominant character of the area.	*				
11. Landmark:	An important visual and historical landmark.	*				
<u>Integrity</u>						
12. Alterations:	Externally, the lookout platform and railing have been removed. Internally, minor alterations only - former dining room has been partitioned off.		*			
13. Condition:	Building is in reasonable condition. Some cracking and fretting of brickwork has occurred.		*			
14. Compatibility:	Currently used as a manse by the Uniting Church.		*			

<u>Supplementary Information</u>	
15. Adaptation:	Well suited for restoration. High potential for adaptation.
16. Interpretation:	High potential for interpretation as part of broader Gawler programme.
17. Current Situation:	No known threat.

Evaluated By	Lothar Brasse <i>LB</i>	Annelly Aeuckens <i>Aeuckens</i>	Date
	Register Architect	Register Historian	
Reviewed By	Mark Butcher <i>MAB</i>		Date
	Acting Register Supervisor		8.2.82.
South Australian Heritage Committee Categorization			Date

I.E.S./D3/211081

Hignett & Company

On Register
Interim List
Nominated
National Estate
National Trust ✓ 840
R.A.I.A.
Civic Trust
N.P. & W.L.S.
Council
Australian Heritage
Engin. Record
Other

MAP
Scale:
Source:

