

## ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

## ITEM NAME

Current: HOUSE

Historical: WESLEYAN MANSE

## ITEM NUMBER

47

## DATE

## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

Original section built 1858/59 as the first Wesleyan Methodist manse. (Its construction delayed work on the new church). First resident Minister was Rev. Nathaniel Bennett.

Used as a manse until 1912, when Tortola House was purchased and then sold as a private house for £150.

To be considered as part of a complex of church and former church buildings - see also items 21, 22 and 126.

Symmetrically disposed gabled wings, hammer dressed Gawler shale with brick quoins and surrounds to openings. Bull-nosed verandah with cast iron spandrels. Gables with cast iron decoration mirrored by the pediment in profiled bricks above paired windows.

## LOCATION

Street No:

Allotment: 19

Section:

Hundred:

Street: Scheibener Tce.

Town:

LGA:

Postcode:

State Hist.Pres.

Region:

## HISTORICAL THEME

Theme: Social Life and

Subtheme: Organisation

Religion

## HISTORICAL PERIOD

State:

Study Area: 1849-70

## TYPE OF ITEM

LAND Natural Feature

Historical Site

Garden

BUILDING Individual

Group

STRUCTURE Complete

Relic

## REFERENCES:

Written: Coombe 179; Barnet 64; Ellis 2: 43; National Trust 1996.

Vocal:

Archival Photographs:

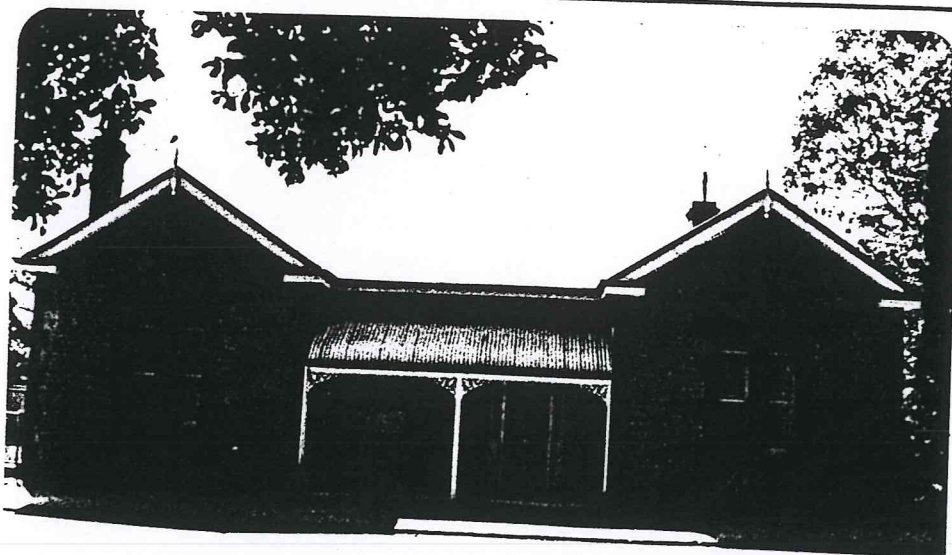
## RECOMMENDATION:

## PHOTOGRAPH

Film No:

Direction of view:

Negative No:



## STATUS

Register of State

Heritage Items

On Register

Interim List

Nominated

National Estate

National Trust ✓ 1996

R.A.I.A.

Civic Trust

N.P. &amp; W.L.S.

Council

Australian Heritage

Engin. Record

Other

## MAP

Scale:

Source:

PREPARED BY:

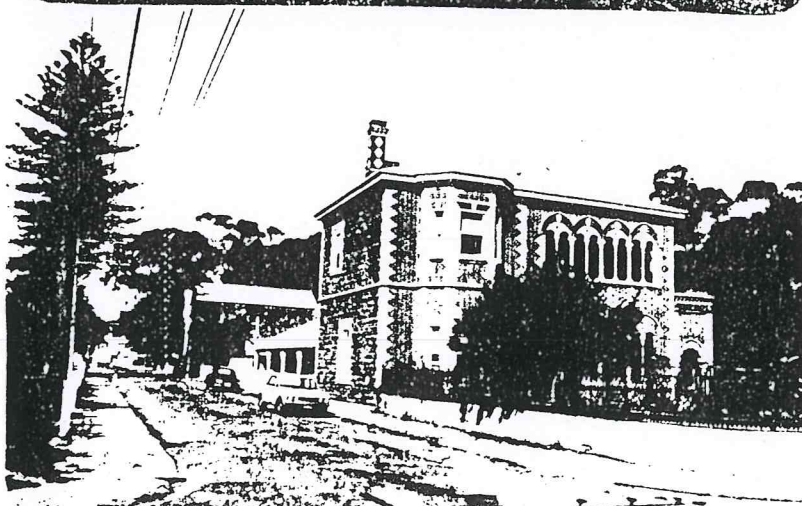
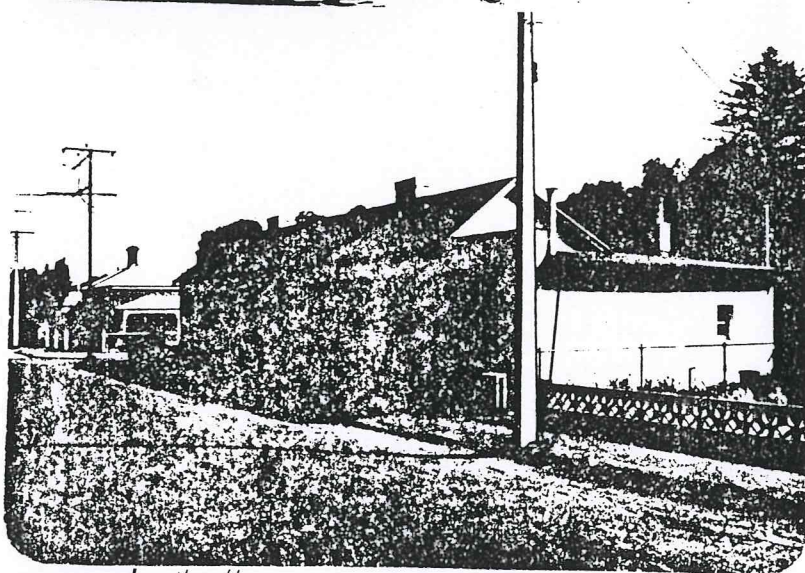
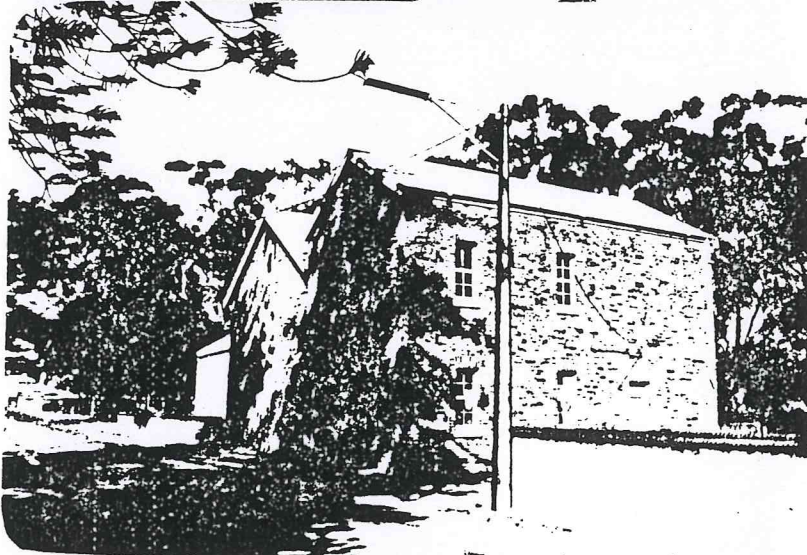
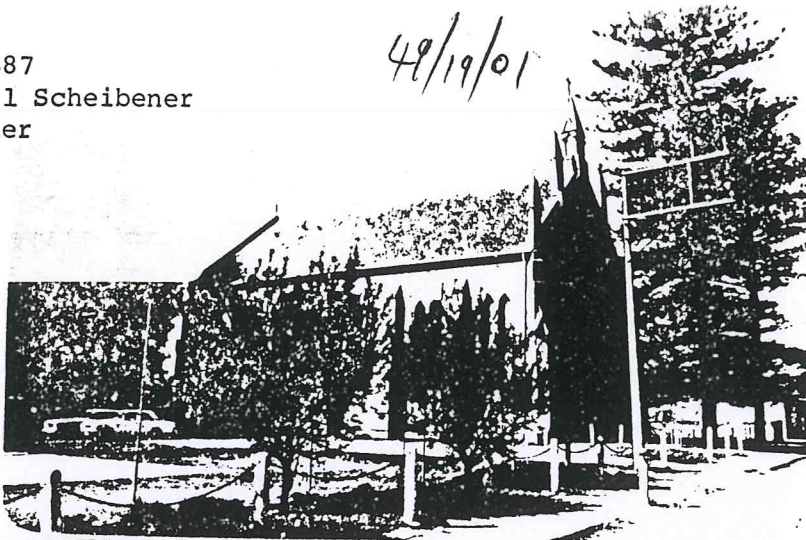
DATE:



6628-10387

House - 1 Scheibener  
St. Gawler

48/19/01



B.V. & H. NEP 75/76 No1

G17 - METHODIST CHURCH, H  
& MANSE & HOUSE, 1  
SCHIEBENER STREET

*Gawler.*

These 4 buildings are part  
of a precinct and form a  
"group" on the National  
Trust's "classified list"

The old section of the Ha  
is the original chapel bu  
in 1850 and enlarged in 1

The Wesleyan Church was b  
in 1869.

In the 1860's William Wind  
who financed the building  
the church, built Tortola  
House in Dundas Street wit  
Gawler red bricks pattern  
with cream bricks from  
Florence and iron castings  
from the Gawler Foundries.  
At one time Alfred May own  
the house. In 1912 it wa  
sold to the Todd Street  
Methodist Church for Manse  
£2,000. Good condition.

### Recommendations

Methodist Church precinct  
be preserved and linked to  
the riverbank landscape.

### GRADE I





To: The Register Sub-Committee, South Australian Heritage Committee

Re: REGISTER NOMINATION:

HOUSE "TORTOLA", (ALSO KNOWN AS UNITING CHURCH MANSE),  
CORNER OF TOD AND DUNDAS STREET GAWLER

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 revalled 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 the house "Tortola" be included on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorised A1, A2, H2, H3.



Barry G. Rowney  
SENIOR HISTORIC ARCHITECT

LB:SK

4.9.1981

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	ITEM EVALUATION SHEET BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	Office Use: File No. Comp. Ref.				
PERIOD 1852-1883	ITEM: HOUSE "TORTOLA" AND CAST IRON TOPPED FENCE  THEME Persons, Habitation - Housing					
COMPONENT	COMMENT	GRADING E VG AG FP NA				
<u>History</u>						
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. Wincey - Timber Merchant, Gawler Councillor, Mayor (1873-4) and Treasurer of Tod St. 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 St. Methodist Church.	*				
3. Event:	Not as yet established.					
<u>Architecture</u>						
4. Age:	Exact date not yet established. (1870's?)					
5. Style:	Italianate.	*				
6. Architect/ Engineer/ Builder	Not yet established.					
7. Design:	Pleasing two storey asymmetric design with dominating cloisters and diaper brickwork. Originally a lookout was located on the rooftop.	*				
8. Construction:	Red and 'white' bricks to front facade. Bluestone 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.	*				
9. 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.		*			
<u>Environment</u>						
10. Continuity:	Important element which maintains the dominant character of the area.	*				
11. Local Character:	Important in establishing and maintaining the dominant character of the area.	*				
12. Landmark:	An important visual and historical landmark.	*				

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	REGISTER OF STATE HERITAGE ITEMS ITEM EVALUATION SHEET BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES ITEM: HOUSE "TORTOLA" AND CAST IRON TOPPED FENCE	Office Use: File No.  Comp. Ref.																														
COMPONENT  <u>Integrity</u>  13. Alterations:  14. Condition:  <u>Compatibility for Reuse</u>  15. Compatibility:  16. Adaptability:  17. Interpretation:	COMMENT  Externally the lookout platform and railing have been removed. Internally minor alterations only - former dining room has been partitioned off.  Building is in reasonable condition. Some cracking and fretting of brickwork has occurred.  Used as a manse.  Considerable degree of adaptation.  Has potential for interpretation.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="5">GRADING</th> </tr> <tr> <th>E</th> <th>VG</th> <th>AG</th> <th>FP</th> <th>NA</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>*</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>*</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>*</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>*</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	GRADING					E	VG	AG	FP	NA		*					*					*					*			
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REVIEWED BY		DATE																														
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE CATEGORIZATION		DATE																														



6628-10375  
Tortola House  
Gawler



HOMESTEAD OF MR. A. J. MURRAY, MOUNT CRAWFORD.

value of upwards of £10,000. When Mr. Martin began operations he had very little capital. In the nineties it took £150,000 to run the business.

Towards the close of the nineties, owing to the requirements of the railways having lessened, and owing to the State manufacture of rolling stock, there was a big falling off in the output of the works, and the list of employes diminished considerably. Since that time a few small orders have been received for the construction of locomotives, boilers, and goods wagons for the Government, but at no time during the last ten years have there been more than 400 hands employed in the works. For a time in the nineties the profit-sharing system was adopted, but it was abandoned a few years later.

The lessened demand for the Company's manufactures and the increased competition were a great handicap to a concern which had to carry such a large amount of borrowed capital, and last year, to the great regret of townspeople, the Company was compelled to go into liquidation.

After a time of considerable suspense to Gawler residents, during which the fear of the permanent closing of the establishment was ever present, Mr. Henry Dutton decided to purchase the engineering portion of the works and carry it on under the former title of Jas. Martin & Co. The news of this decision was received with much rejoicing. An important factor in the determination of Mr. Dutton to purchase the establishment was the promise of the Price-Peake Government to give him a contract for ten locomotives and 100 goods wagons. This action of the Ministry was much appreciated by Gawlerites, and a public gathering was subsequently held in recognition of the consideration extended to the town at a critical time. The Hon. T. Price, who was present, received an ovation.

The new proprietor, with Mr. Thos. Roberts, M.I.Mech.E., M.Inst.C.E., as consulting engineer; Mr. J. F. Pearson, as General Manager, and Mr. G. Lenz as Works Manager and Chief Draughtsman, has made extensive repairs and improvements to the plant and premises, and is now prepared to undertake work in all branches of engineering. There are about 250 hands employed, and it is expected that this number will be substantially increased.

#### GAWLER IMPLEMENT MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

This Company was formed to carry on the agricultural portion of the business of Jas. Martin & Co., Ltd., and consists chiefly of local business people and farmers.

The Directors are Messrs. H. B. Crosby (Chairman), A. Sheard, and H. W. Mortimer, and the Manager is Mr. Jas. Fergusson, who was for many years the head of the agricultural department of Jas. Martin & Co., Ltd. The new company has received promises of support from most of the clients of the old firm, and has begun business with good hope of success. Although at the time of writing (June, 1908) operations have only been resumed about two months, numerous orders have been received, and a satisfactory quantity of work turned out. About 30 hands are employed, and it is anticipated that this number will be largely added to within a short period.

#### MAY BROS. & CO., LTD.

The Gawler West firm has a record of unexampled success. The works were started in July, 1885, by the late Mr. Frederick May and Mr. Alfred May. The brothers helped to erect their first shop just opposite the railway station, on its eastern side. The building was 130 ft. long by 80 ft. wide, and about 20 ft. high. The brothers began operations in October of the same year with four or five men, but their reputation for





mechanical skill, especially in regard to mining machinery, soon brought them plenty of orders. The shop they erected seemed to them to be large enough for a life time, but just as a young and vigorous tree will throw out fresh branches and increase its wood and foliage, so the virile and go-ahead establishment of Messrs. May Bros. increased. Acre was added to acre, building to building; the number of employes extended from tens to scores, and from scores to hundreds; and the output grew from strippers and seed sowers to jigs and boilers, and from jigs and boilers to smelting and crushing and pumping and winding plants until practically any farm or any mine in Australia could be equipped right through with all the latest and most efficient machinery for the exploitation of the wealth of its soil. Thoroughness was the motto of the two brothers who started the concern, and thoroughness has marked the continuation of the business by Mr. Alfred May and those associated with him since Mr. Fred. May's death in December, 1897. The characteristics of their manufacturing—efficient design, the best material, and the best workmanship—have caused orders to literally flow into the offices of the firm. They have not had to be hunted for. First of all their customers were South Australians. Now they have on their books farmers and companies in all the States. Orders have also been entrusted to them from New Caledonia and British Columbia. Popularity is a good thing when it is deserved, and the popularity of Messrs. May's specialities evidently rests upon a solid foundation.

A big factor in the success of Messrs. May Bros. & Co. have been their ability and readiness to adapt their machinery to the needs of their customers. Perhaps the class of mining machinery which the Gawler West firm have made themselves most famous about is that for concentration. They paid special attention to the operation of concentration, and their patent jigs are found upon many of the principal mines. They have played a very important part in the solution of the sulphide problem, and at Broken Hill alone 30 000 tons of crude sulphide ores are treated by their machinery every week. From the first the late Mr. Fred. May contended that the solution of the difficulty lay in the mechanical separation of the sulphide ores, and that the required separation could be effected by Messrs. May's concentrators. As long ago as when Captain Piper controlled the destinies of the Broken Hill South Mine Mr. May demonstrated by a trial of sulphide ores that his contentions were based on sound premises, but in those days, when the rich oxide ores were being exploited, mining managers would not look at the sulphides with their relatively poor percentages. So the matter dropped; but soon after the problem was revived, and chemists and metallurgists of high repute investigated its intricacies, and endeavoured to solve them. Finally mechanical separation was decided upon, and the fact that Messrs. May Bros.' concentrators now erected on the Broken Hill line put through such a large quantity of sulphides is a great triumph to the genius and skill of the late Mr. May. The firm enjoy a very large trade in concentrating machinery, and they have generally some orders for it in hand. The Broken Hill Proprietary Co. has been an excellent customer of the Gawler firm. The latter received their first order from the big Company in July, 1887, and almost ever since they have had some work on hand for the same mine. The most prominent land marks at Broken Hill and Port Pirie, notably the smelting stacks, were supplied by Messrs. May Bros.—that is, the casing for the stacks. Both of them are 205 ft. high. The firm supplied most of the iron work for the softening and refining furnaces of the Company's refineries. Messrs. May Bros. provided all the crucible columns and water pipes of the 120-ton smelters at Port Pirie as well as the water jackets for four of them. They also manufactured the



The Late Mr. FRED MAY.



down-takes of the furnaces and some of the iron-work of the Ropp roasters, as well as more than one of the big boilers. The sampling mills also are their work. Both the initiatory and the finishing operations on the ore, concentrating and refining, are, therefore, performed by machinery the product of Messrs. May's establishment. In 1901 the Gawler West firm supplied the Proprietary Company at Broken Hill with a pair of winding engines, the largest ever made in Australia. They were designed by Messrs. May Bros. and Co. to wind from a depth of 500 ft. and were capable of developing over 1,000 indicated horse-power.

Messrs. May Bros. & Co. have been no less successful in the agricultural implement branch. Their strippers, damp weather and ordinary, soon won a large measure of popularity, and their seed-sowers, ploughs, winnowers, harrows, cultivators, and other implements became noted for their efficiency in the field. At agricultural shows and in field trials Messrs. May Bros. annexed a large number of awards, and their collection of medals and other trophies is an extensive and interesting one. In later years the complete harvester has to a considerable extent displaced the stripper, and the Gawler West firm has produced a machine which is equal to any on the market, a harvester which does excellent work in the field, and for which a big demand exists.

The extension of the firm's business compelled them to enlarge their works in 1897, and the foundry was removed to the northern side of the main road between Gawler and the railway station to premises which had been purchased there.

The death of Mr. Frederick May in December, 1897, was a great blow to the firm. The deceased gentleman was a mechanical genius. Any task of a mechanical nature came not amiss to him. Since the death of his brother, Mr. Alfred May has been the guiding spirit of the establishment, and has worthily and ably maintained and enhanced the reputation and business of the concern. In 1906 the company was converted into a limited liability organization, and with Mr. May are associated his nephew, Mr. Fred. May, his son, Mr. A. F. May, and Messrs. J. A. B. Wesley and F. Evers.

All the premises are lighted by electricity, gas being also laid on. There are about 200 men constantly employed, while in busy periods the hands number 300. The accessories are of the most comprehensive and up-to-date character. There are lathes that will turn from the smallest (6 in.) centres to 14 ft. in diameter, besides slotting, drilling, planing, shaping, screwing, and milling machines. There is also a large and powerful crane which travels the whole length of the building, and which will remove the heaviest piece of machinery and either place it on a truck or in any desired spot within its range of action. In the wood-working department all the most modern contrivances are to be seen, including large squaring-up and wood planing machines, handfeed and thicknessing machines, tenoning machines, and complete machinery for wheel making, together with band and circular saws. The smiths' shop is equipped with pressure blasts from a large Roots' blower for all the forges, large steam hammers, cranes, machines to stamp bolts out of solid iron, and other incidentals. The boiler-making department is furnished with a riveting machine, a large plate bending machine, and punching and shearing machines, while there are large travelling cranes, conveniently adjusted to lift a boiler weighing 20 tons to a height of 30 ft., and to gently carry it to any required spot under the hoist. There are also large plate heating furnaces and a powerful hydraulic press. In the foundry there is another huge travelling crane capable of raising 20 tons. Here, likewise, are three cupolas for melting the metal and large core drying stoves. There is a separate engine for

the Roots' blower which supplies the blast of the cupolas together with coal and coaldust grinding mills for the benefit of the moulders. Adjoining the foundry is a building furnished with two drop-hammers for stamp forging. These are driven by machinery, and they make most perfect work, as the dies for the various articles to be stamped are cut out of steel. The pattern makers' shop is in the upper story of the main building, and facing the railway station are the drawing offices and the principal store-rooms, where the finished articles in the shape of agricultural implements are placed on the trucks for despatch to customers. Here, too, the draughtsmen prepare designs for the various articles manufactured.

#### THE BRITANNIA FOUNDRY.

Mr. James Robinson came to this State in 1883, and for a time was foreman of the moulders at Messrs. James Martin & Co. In 1885 he started business on his own account at Gawler West, where he has been located ever since. His establishment is known as the Britannia Foundry. His principal specialities are plough and cultivator shares, and he has taken out several patents. He stocks about 300,000 dozen, and has a large demand throughout the Commonwealth. In addition to shares Mr. Robinson executes orders for castings of all descriptions—verandah designs, stamped buggy and carriage work, miners' picks, field gates, and land rollers. He employs 25 hands. He has recently installed a large suction gas plant.

#### THE EAGLE FOUNDRY.

The Eagle Foundry, in King-street, was started in March, 1870, by the late Mr. David Thomson, and is now the oldest continuous business of its kind in Gawler. Mr. Thomson set out to manufacture plough shares, castings for agricultural implement makers, garden seats, verandahs, columns, and such like products of the iron founder, and the establishment has enjoyed a fair measure of success. The late Mr. Thomson was a model employer, and the history of the foundry is one of uninterrupted harmony between masters and men. Since the death of Mr. Thomson in 1902 the business has been carried on by his sons—Messrs. Daniel, David, R. K., and J. J. Thomson—on behalf of Mrs. Thomson, their mother. The number of hands varies from 10 to 15.

#### MR. T. J. WILKINSON.

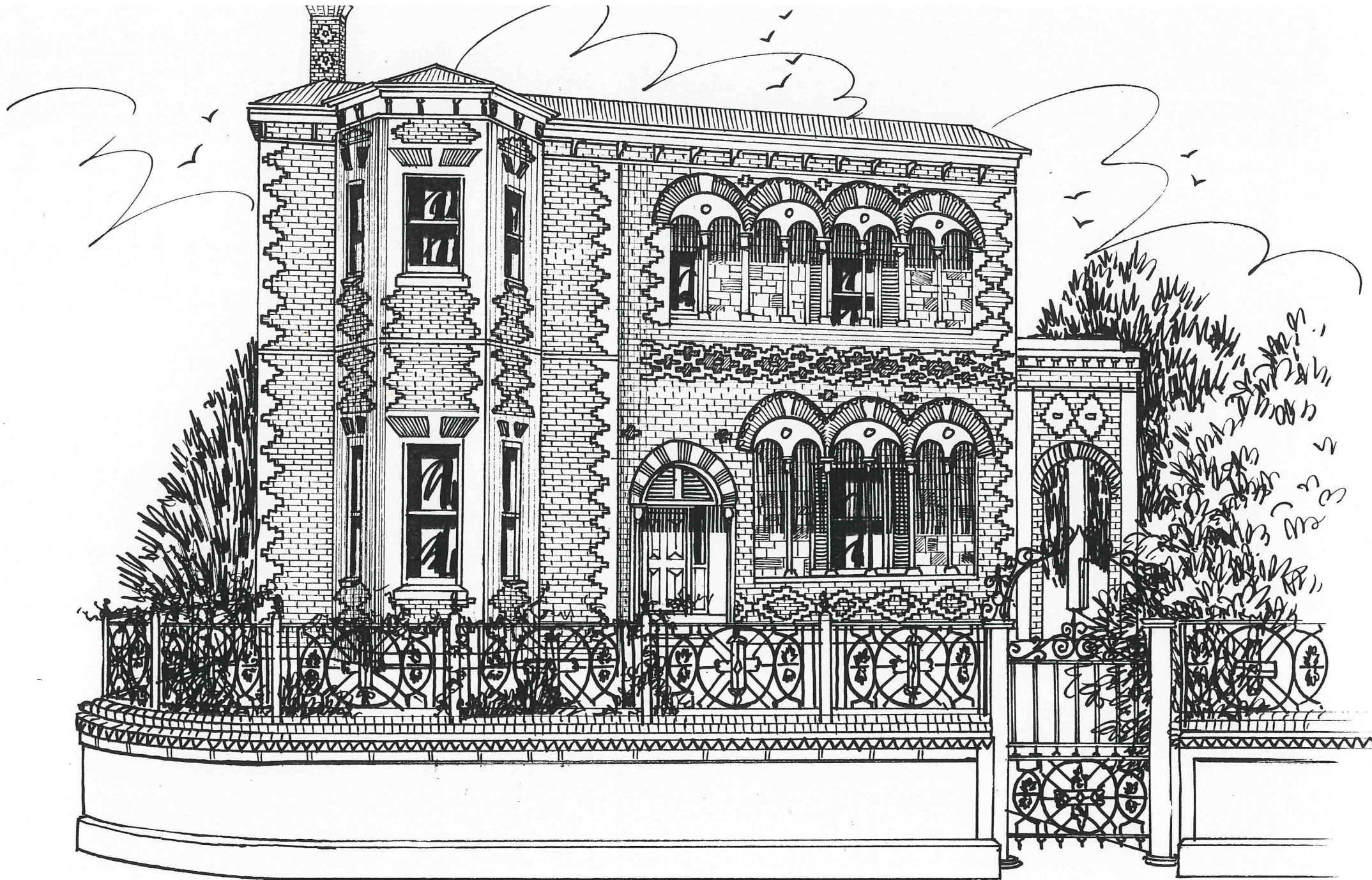
It is 15 years since Mr. T. J. Wilkinson commenced his blacksmith, wheelwright, and coach building business in Cowan-street. Prior to that he was established in other parts of Gawler for eight years. Mr. Wilkinson has built up a large connection, and, in addition to manufacturing buggies, wagons, trollies, and other vehicles, he does an extensive repairing business. The average number of hands employed is 15.

#### BLACKSMITHS AND SHOEING SMITHS.

Mr. A. Stewart has a large shoeing smith's business in Murray-street, in premises formerly occupied by the late Mr. John Jones, who carried on as a machinist. Mr. Stewart was first installed in a shop adjacent to the Old Bushman Yards, and remained there for 27 years, but in 1902 removed to his present location. In addition to horse shoeing, Mr. Stewart does an amount of vehicle repairing. Three hands are engaged.

Mr. A. Withers has a shoeing smith's business opposite the "Bunyip" office. It was founded by his father in 1886. Mr. Withers enjoys a satis-





3 DUNDAS ST., GAWLER.