

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

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

NAME: Magarey House

PLACE NO.: 26355

ADDRESS: 284-286 South Terrace Adelaide SA 5000

Physical Description

Magarey House has a two-storey Victorian villa at its core with a substantial addition to the immediate east that doubled the size of the original building, as well as a later extension to the south. The original two-storey building (west) has painted bluestone walls to the sides, with front masonry walls being painted with rendered banded quoins. Roof is hipped and of corrugated iron. The feature of the main elevation is the bay window with moulding about the windows and masonry balustraded balcony above. Window and door surrounds are timber-framed: windows and double-hung sash. There is a small timber-framed portico above the main entrance and a small cantilevered balcony with iron balustrading associated with the French doors above.

The c1950 extension to east has larger windows and rendered and banded quoins to match older building. The major extension to the south is similar to the original building in scale and features matching rendered and banded masonry piers: it is stepped back slightly to differentiate it from the original building. These later additions have not been included in the extent of listing.

Statement of Heritage Significance

Magarey House on South Terrace, Adelaide is of heritage significance because of its association with the life and work of Dr Helen Mayo and the Mothers and Babies Health Association (MBHA) from 1938. Dr Helen Mayo, in partnership with Miss Harriet Stirling, founded the School for Mothers in 1909 which became the Mothers and Babies Health Association (MBHA) in 1927. The principal role of the MBHA was 'to promote the education of the mother in all that concerns the physical, mental and moral development of herself and her offspring'. In 1938 the MBHA moved to South

Terrace establishing its infant welfare and training centre facility in Magarey House. The MBHA has provided a service to several generations of women and their babies at Magarey House for over 70 years. The MBHA has now become the Children Youth and Women's Health Service and they continue to occupy Magarey House.

Relevant Criteria under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

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

Magarey House has special associations with the life or work of Dr Helen Mayo and the Mothers and Babies Health Association (MBHA). Dr Helen Mayo, founded the School for Mothers in South Australia in 1909, which evolved into the MBHA in 1927 with Dr Mayo as its Chief Honorary Medical Officer. Magarey House on South Terrace became the MBHA's infant welfare and training centre facility in 1938. The MBHA was the State's principal organisation for the training of mothers in the care of children, particularly during their first year of life.

Extent of Listing

The components that are critical to the heritage significance of Magarey House include:

- Original two-storey section of building

The extent of listing excludes later structures added to building.

History of the Place

This building was constructed on Town Acre 672 that was originally granted to John Hallett of Glenelg on 23 December 1837.

Over time, the land was subdivided and at November 1882, William Rogers was noted as the owner of this land parcel — measuring approximately 50 ft x 185 ft — and also of that adjoining. Rogers was a builder and, according to Building Surveyor's Notices, was responsible for the construction of several dwellings in the South Terrace/Hanson Street area. Indeed, it is possible that the reference for 19 September 1882 indicating that 'Wm Rogers is the builder contracted to construct a dwelling on Town Acre 672 South Terrace' refers to this building. Assessment records note vacant land in 1882, and a house with an annual assessed value of £80 on the land on Town Acre 672, with William Rogers as the owner/occupier, in 1884. Rogers died in March 1898 and his executors retained title to the property until November 1904.

Further changes in ownership occurred, and in November 1937, the Mothers and Babies Health Association Inc. (MBHA) acquired the property and that adjoining.

Dr Helen Mayo and Miss Harriet Stirling founded the MBHA in 1909 with the Adelaide School for Mothers at the Franklin Street Kindergarten. As historian Dr Judith Raftery quoting from an *Annual Report* notes, its aims were:

... to promote the education of the mother in all that concerns the physical, mental and moral development of herself and her offspring ... [and to bring about] the reduction of infantile mortality

by means of timely advice and instruction on scientific lines in the care and upbringing of infants, especially during their first year of life.

Helen Mayo graduated in medicine from the University of Adelaide in 1902. An outstanding student, she worked overseas between 1904–1906 before returning to private practice in Adelaide and working as an honorary anaesthetist at the Adelaide Children's Hospital. With Harriet Stirling, who worked with the State Children's Department, the two were inspired to set up the School after attending conferences interstate and in London on infant welfare and services for mothers. In 1927, the School became known as the Mothers and Babies Health Association with Dr Mayo its Chief Honorary Medical Officer (1909–1966) and president of the central committee (1949–1955).

The MBHA rented a cottage at 34 Wright Street as its headquarters in 1911 and in 1934 moved its headquarters to North Terrace. In February 1938, the MBHA applied to Council to establish its infant welfare and mothercraft training facility in this building on South Terrace, which it had acquired in November 1937 for between £5,000–£6,000. By now the MBHA had established 103 centres, had 30 branch committees and had 23 trained nurses and five honorary medical officers. By this time too, the organisation had established the first of its baby health trains and clinics at the Royal Adelaide Show.

Lady Dugan, wife of the South Australian governor, opened this building—then named Torrens House—on 24 August 1938. Lady Dugan noted in her opening speech that:

... Torrens House will overcome the lack of training facilities for infant welfare nurses in South Australia, and I am very proud of all those who have worked so splendidly to bring this mothercraft training school into being.

This meant that it was no longer necessary for those nurses undertaking training in baby welfare to undertake their studies interstate. To enable this to occur, special legislation was passed in State Parliament for State registration of the Infant Welfare Certificate. As Molly Trait was later to comment:

Ten infant welfare trainees completed their courses during the year [1938], and many applications were received for the services of the first two mothercraft trainees when they completed their courses. There was also a long list of girls seeking training.

In 1949, the building underwent alterations and additions. The architect was Herbert H Jory and the builder, F Fricker Ltd. The same business constructed the concrete/brick fence on the street boundary in 1950.

The administrative headquarters shifted to the South Terrace site in 1957. Further buildings were erected. On 9 March 1962, a ceremony was held on the site of a new building that 'will accommodate mothercraft and child facilities and a clinic to help in the problems of management of both babies and toddlers'. The building was opened in 1963 with the medical director, Dr de Crespigny, noting that 'Torrens House on South terrace will be retained by the MBHA for additional trainees and caring for additional babies'.

In 1959, the sunroom and deck on the eastern end of the building were converted into a two-storey addition. Architect Herbert H Jory prepared the plans and Leslie V Simpson undertook construction. Following this, in 1960, the Council approved the conversion of building use from training school to private hospital. The Local Board of Health issued a licence in January 1961 for the running of the private hospital, the same year that Council approved extensions to Torrens House and on land to the east supervised by architects Bruer, von Schramek & Dawes

In 1966, Torrens House at ground level consisted of four nurseries, play area, two isolation nurseries, reception office, bathroom and a soiled linen area; and in the back area two stores, kitchen, domestic dining, staff dining, mothers' dining area, pantry, food room and toilets. Further work has been carried out since:

Later development:

1967 — additions to Torrens House: sun porch, wall openings. Architect: Bruer, von Schramek & Dawes; Builder: E F Marshall & Sons Pty Ltd.

1976 — construction of an external steel staircase to what is now known as the Magarey Wing. Architect: Tugwell Tetley Hardy.

1980 — installation of room air-conditioners. Builder: Fricker Carrington Group.

1980 — carport and a bathroom. Architect: Tugwell Tetley Hardy; Builder: Fricker Bros Ltd.

1998 — internal alterations and minor addition. Architect: Brown Falconer Group Pty Ltd.

The place continues to be used to provide services to South Australian women and children.

Note: The Mothers and Babies' Health Association Inc. became known as the Child Adolescent and Family Health Service, Child and Youth Health, then Children Youth and Women's Health Service Inc.

The building known as Magarey House was formerly named 'Torrens House'.

References

This Record has been adapted from the assessment report in:

- Donovan and Associates 2009, *City of Adelaide Heritage Survey (Southern Adelaide)*, City of Adelaide.

Refer to the survey for a more detailed list of references.

SITE RECORD

Magarey House
284-286 South Terrace

PLACE NO: 26355

FORMER NAME:	Torrens House
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Two-storey building.
DATE OF COMPLETION:	1884
SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:	Description: Confirmed Date: 10 May 2013
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS	N/A
CURRENT USE:	Description: Offices Dates:
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Description: Hospital/Hostel Dates: 1937
ARCHITECT:	Name: N/A Dates: N/A
BUILDER:	Name: N/A Dates: N/A
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Description: City of Adelaide
LOCATION:	Unit No.: Street No.: 284-286 Street Name: South Terrace Town/Suburb: Adelaide Post Code: 5000
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Type: CT Volume: 6105 Folio: 990 Lot No.: A50 D57371 Section: PTA 671 Hundred: Adelaide

PHOTOS

Magarey House
284-286 South Terrace

PLACE NO: 26355



Magarey House, 284-296 South Terrace — View to north

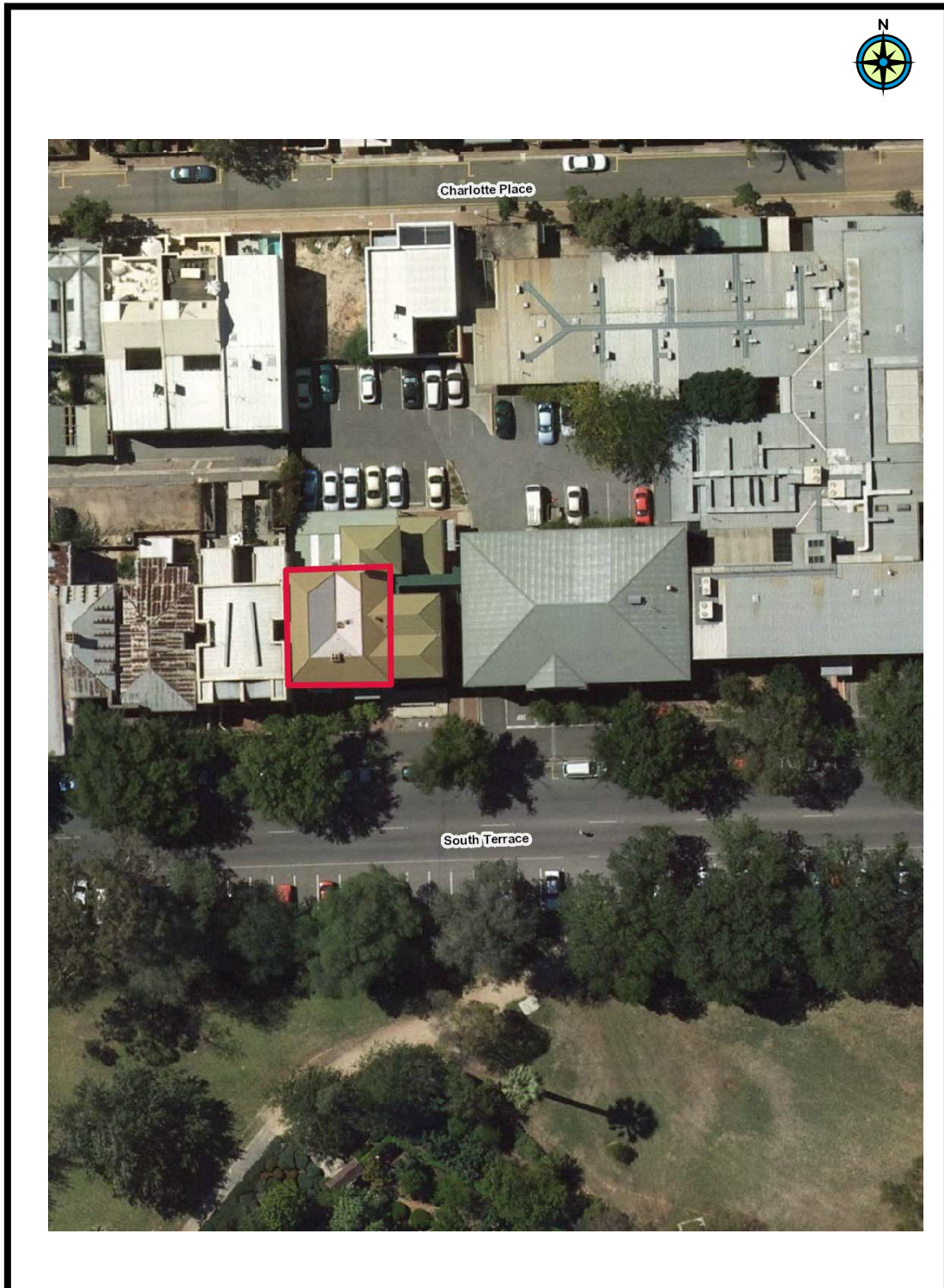


B.12500, 31.12.1952 (SLSA)

SITE PLAN

Magarey House
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Magarey House, South Terrace showing extent of listing.