

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

NAME: Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')

PLACE: 26541

ADDRESS: Karna Country
5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate

This heritage assessment considers that the place meets criteria (e) and (g). Refer to Summary of State Heritage Place for final approved wording, including criteria statements.



5 Fitzroy Terrace, south and east elevations

Source: DEW Files provided by nominator

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

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, its design 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 South Australian Historical Themes

4 Building Settlements, Towns and Cities

4.3 Shaping the suburbs (pre and post World War Two)

4.8 Making homes for South Australians

(Draft Themes, 1 June 2020)

Comparability / Rarity / Representation:

'Woodgate', 5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate is associated with the work of the prominent South Australian architectural firm FW Dancker and Son and is an excellent early example of the Inter-war Old English architectural style. Each is considered in turn.

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 articulated 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 articulated to him.

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 1944.¹

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.²

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 articulated 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.³

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*, including:

- Gables
- Round or square tower
- Special treatment of the main roof
- Bay windows
- Chimneys
- Verandah or balcony

Frederick also expressed an opinion on other aspects of design and materials choices, including:

- Stone and/or brick were recommended for exterior walls.
- Windows are the 'leading features' of the elevation and should be 'well proportioned'.
- The roof is considered to be a 'dominant feature' and should be clad in terra cotta tiles as the tiles provide a 'superior effect' to corrugated iron while also being more 'durable and cooler'.
- Verandahs and/or balconies are an 'inseparable feature' of houses located in a sunny climate and 'should not be treated as adjunct or a separate thing to the house' so as to achieve an architectural effect.
- Possibility of future extensions should be considered and planned for as a part of the initial design of the house, even if the addition is not anticipated for a number of years.
- The entrance to the home is a 'feature that entices an individual to approach the home', a porch and the door, which should be 'substantial and handsome', sets a 'positive impression of the exterior'.
- The hall achieves a similar impression for the interior of the home and may range from a 'simple passage' to a 'luxurious apartment or lobby'. The floor may be inlaid or plain, with beamed or panelled ceiling, wood panelled dado, niches, inglenook, and 'handsome windows'.
- A straight passage through the house is 'undesirable', 'swing doors' should not be used to divide the hall and can be avoided by designing a wider entrance hall with a passage leading off of it.

- The 'dining room vies with the drawing room as the most attractive in the house' and should have good proportions, wood fittings, be well lit, contain some stained glass in the windows and have 'careful treatment' of wall and ceiling colour.
- The drawing room should have the 'most care and expense bestowed' on the 'treatment of walls, floors, and ceiling'. An 'irregular-shaped room' with bays, corners, or nooks affords scope for 'artistic treatment'.
- The library is a 'convenient adjunct' to the drawing room, 'sliding doors' should be included between the rooms to enable the creation of a 'single large room' when required.
- Similarly, archways, curtains, or sliding doors from the hall to drawing room and dining room will enable one large 'bold and spacious' room to be created when required.
- Provision of a side or garden entrance from which the toilet can be easily accessed.
- The kitchen is the 'heart of home' and should be fitted with 'modern conveniences', and connected to the dining and breakfast rooms, back hall, pantry, cellar and scullery. Kitchen windows are to be 'large and well-placed' for good illumination. A servery or butler's pantry located between the dining room and kitchen is a 'convenience' and should be fitted with a sink, shelves and cupboards for glass and china. Timber floors should be covered with linoleum.
- The laundry may serve as a scullery if entered from the kitchen with cooking occurring in the scullery during summer to keep the kitchen cooler.
- It is most desirable that the bedrooms have an easterly or westerly aspect so as to capture either the morning or afternoon sun.
- In a single story house the bedrooms and bathrooms are to be arranged leading off of a separate passage to the hall that serves the dining, drawing rooms etc.
- A dressing room is a 'pretty feature' that forms a 'small anteroom' to the main bedroom and is accessed through a 'door or archway', can have a projecting bay window and/or ornamental windows, with external doors and windows protected by screens.
- Linen room or large cupboards.
- Bathroom styling depends on owners' budget.⁴

The earlier houses designed by Frederick are often in the Federation Queen Anne architectural style (see Attunga, below), with many later houses designed in the less ornate Inter-war Old English style. Of the 15 State Heritage Places entered in the Register designed by FW Dancker and Son, most are attributed to Frederick. Seven are dwellings (six houses and a manse), six are commercial premises, with the remaining two being a church and factory addition.

All of the houses entered in the Register and likely designed by Frederick date from the earlier period of the practice (1883-1911) and do not reflect the shift in style that

took place with the entry of Eric into the business, firstly as an articulated student and then as a partner. The dwellings entered in the Register including the manse are:

- Office (former Dwelling – Draper Memorial Methodists Church Manse), South Terrace, Adelaide, 1883 (SHP 13451),
- Adare Conference Centre (formerly Dwelling 'Adare'), Adare Avenue, Victor Harbor, 1892-1893 (SHP 16342),
- Dwelling ('Weeroni') 144-153 East Terrace Adelaide, 1896 (SHP 13426),
- Burnside War Memorial Hospital (formerly dwelling 'Attunga', Fence Gates and Garden), Kensington Road, Toorak Gardens, 1901 (SHP 12764),
- Dwelling ('Sera House" formerly 'Duguid House'), 33 Dequetteville Terrace Kent Town, 1906 (SHP 13590), the interiors are also of note,
- Dwelling ('Buxton Manor & Fence), 67-75 Buxton Street, North Adelaide, 1909, (status of interior remains unclear) (SHP 13472),
- Dwelling 'Mount Brecken', Renown Ave, Victor Harbor originally McMinn but was rebuilt to a design by Dancker in 1911 after a fire, (SHP 13176).



Former Draper Memorial Methodist Church Manse, 1883, (SHP 13451)

Source: DEW Files



Former 'Attunga', 191 (SHP 12764)

Source: DEW Files



Former 'Duguid House', 1906 (SHP 13590), is an early example of a bungalow that also features bespoke interiors designed by FW Dancker.

Source: Google Maps and DEW Files





Former 'Duguid House' showing further details of the bespoke designed interiors

Source: DEW Files



'Buxton Manor', 1909 (SHP 13472)

Source: DEW Files

'Old English' Architecture in South Australia

The revival of Old English architecture as a housing style occurred in South Australia at the turn of the twentieth century and houses that referenced 'Old English' or 'Tudor' buildings continued to be built routinely up until the Second World War. Apperly et al have defined two styles that adopted 'Old English' or 'Tudor' architecture, namely: Federation Queen Anne built c.1890-c.1915, and Inter-War Old English built c.1915-c.1940.

Both styles draw upon 'Tudor' architecture and possess similar elements or features, however, the design of 'Woodgate', designed and built 1912-1915, demonstrates that it is an early example of the Inter-war Old English style rather than a late example of Federation Queen Anne. While the two styles are similar, Inter-war Old English displays simpler detailing, whereas Federation Queen Anne 'deliberately avoided' 'simplicity'.⁵

The main characteristics of Inter-war Old English buildings are:

- Picturesque asymmetry, featuring vertical proportions,
- Free-standing, domestic-scaled buildings,
- Imitation half-timbering, frequently to gables and upper stories, often with herringbone or chequered nogging (brickwork),
- Medium pitch gable roofs with timber bargeboards,
- Elaborate, tall brick chimneys, often featuring terra cotta pots,
- Face brick to walls,
- Windows typically casement with leadlight glazing, often in diamond pattern
- Interior elements demonstrating 'Old English' style include panelled wainscoting (dado), beamed ceilings and large fireplaces.

There are about 48 houses entered in the Register that possess some elements or features of Federation Queen Anne or Inter-war Old English architectural styles, or that are sufficiently well resolved to be considered examples of either style. Houses designed in the Federation Queen Anne style tend to dominate. The Register contains relatively few examples that can be considered to be good examples of Inter-War Old English, namely:

- Dwelling, 40 East Terrace, Kensington Gardens, 1911-12, (SHP 13989) (some interior features remain), listed under the provisions of the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978* due to its association with Edward Holden (retains some interior features, notably brick fire surrounds and timber beams in billiard room),
- Dwelling (former Bishop's Palace & Convent) 2 Callary Street, Peterborough, 1912, (SHP14254), listed under the provisions of the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978*.



Dwelling, 1911-1912, (SHP 13989) (known as 'Brooklyn')

Source: Google Maps & Realestate.com



Former Bishop's Palace and Convent, 1912 (SHP 14254)

Source: DEW Files

There are still hundreds of houses across South Australia that are good examples of the Inter-war Old English style. Within the metropolitan area, examples of homes in this style tend to be more numerous in Springfield and the inner eastern suburbs of Adelaide. Some examples include:

- 322 Portrush Road, Marryatville, 1918, FW Dancker and Son,
- 7 Victoria Avenue, Unley Park, c.1920s, possibly Eric Dancker,
- 156 Childers Street, North Adelaide, 1926, FW Dancker and Son,
- House at the convergence of Woodland Avenue and Springfield Road, Springfield, n.d.,
- 18 Delamere Avenue, Springfield, n.d.,
- 5 Brookside Road, Springfield, n.d., retains some interior detailing,
- 10 Stannington Avenue, Heathpool (LHP), c.1920s,
- 472 Magill Road Kensington Gardens (LHP), n.d.,
- 9 Molesworth Street, North Adelaide (LHP), n.d.

FW Dancker and Son are responsible for the design of a number of the above examples. For further examples of houses designed by FW Dancker and Son please refer to www.danckerarchitecture.com



Interwar Old English style house at 5 Brookside Road, Springfield retains some of its original interior detailing.

Source: realestate.com



10 Stannington Avenue, Heathpool (LHP)



472 Magill Road, Kensington Gardens (LHP)



9 Molesworth Street, North Adelaide (LHP)



18 Delamere Road, Springfield



7 Victoria Avenue, Unley Park, possibly a FW Dancker and Son design

Source: Danckerarchitecture.com



322 Portrush Road Marryatville 1918, FW Dancker and Son design

Source: Danckerarchteture.com

**Assessment against Criteria under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.
All Criteria have been assessed using the 2020 Guidelines.**

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases which have played a significant part in South Australian history. Ideally it should demonstrate those associations in its fabric.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if they are of a class of things that are commonplace, or frequently replicated across the State, places associated with events of interest only to a small number of people, places associated with developments of little significance, or places only reputed to have been the scene of an event which has left no trace or which lacks substantial evidence.

'Woodgate' is associated with the historic theme of Building Settlements, Towns and Cities and specifically, its subthemes: shaping the suburbs (pre and post World War Two); and making homes for South Australians.

'Woodgate' was designed and built between 1912 and 1915 as a city-based family home for Lisle Gardner Johnson, a South Australian pastoralist and businessman. The dwelling is one of thousands of houses built across South Australia in the decades between the two World Wars and was constructed in the 'Thorngate Estate' (1913), a small infill subdivision of 54 allotments located between the existing suburb of Prospect and the City of Adelaide.

While 'Woodgate' is associated with the history of the growth of Adelaide's suburbs, the 'Thorngate Estate' was an infill subdivision that aimed to maximise the number of allotments without incorporating any of the city beautiful or garden suburb ideas then being frequently discussed in the popular media. Consequently, 'Woodgate' is not considered to demonstrate important aspects of the evolution of the State's history with regard to shaping the suburbs.

'Woodgate' is an early example of a home designed in the Inter-war Old English architectural style. Inter-war Old English was one of many architectural styles popular in South Australia in the decades between the two wars. The South Australian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects state that the Dwelling did influence the subsequent construction of 'Tudor' or Inter-war Old English style homes in the following decades. However, while 'Woodgate' is an early and well-resolved example of the style and influenced the construction of further homes in the style, the style itself is not considered to be an important aspect of the evolution of South Australian history.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (a).

(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should demonstrate a way of life, social custom, industrial process or land use which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest. This encompasses both places which were always rare, and places which have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if their rarity is merely local, or if they appear rare only because research has not been done elsewhere, or if their distinguishing characteristics have been degraded or compromised, or if they are at present common and simply believed to be in danger of becoming rare in the future.

'Woodgate' is one of many houses built in the Inter-war Old English architectural style across South Australia and one of many that remains extant. Consequently, 'Woodgate' cannot be considered to possess rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (b).

(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should provide, or demonstrate a likelihood of providing, information that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The information should be inherent in the fabric of the place. The place may be a standing structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological site.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion simply because they are believed to contain archaeological or palaeontological deposits. There must be good reasons to suppose the site is of value for research, and that useful information will emerge. A place that will yield the same information as many other places, or information that could be obtained as readily from documentary sources, may not be eligible.

'Woodgate' was built at 5 Fitzroy Terrace in the 'Thorngate Estate' subdivision (now known as the suburb of Thorngate) between 1912 and 1915 on land that was previously undeveloped. The house was extended at some point after completion using similar materials to the original construction and in keeping with its architectural style. The house is extant, built using standard construction techniques for the time and is also well documented through architectural drawings and photographs. Thus it is unlikely to yield information that is not already well known that would contribute meaningfully to the state's history, including its natural history.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (c).

(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should be capable of providing understanding of the category of places which it represents. It should be typical of a wider range of such places, and in a good state of integrity, that is, still faithfully presenting its historical message.

Places will not be considered simply because they are members of a class, they must be both notable examples and well-preserved. Places will be excluded if their characteristics do not clearly typify the class, or if they were very like many other places, or if their representative qualities had been degraded or lost. However, places will not be excluded from the Register merely because other similar places are included.

'Woodgate' belongs to the class of place 'dwelling', or more specifically 'Inter-war Old English Dwelling'. During the first half of the twentieth century, the Inter-war Old English architectural style was one of many styles that were adopted by South Australians. However, while common, Inter-war Old English houses are unlikely to be considered to be a class of place of cultural significance to South Australia. Rather, it is the bungalow that would be considered a class of place of cultural significance. Bungalows were more popularly adopted throughout the State due to their greater suitability for the South Australian climate, internal layouts that began to address changing lifestyles and adaptability to suit a broad range of budgets from the grand bungalows for the wealthy to the more affordable State Bank bungalows.

It is recommended that the nominated place **fulfils/does not fulfil** criterion (d).

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

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its times. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments in design would qualify, if the place clearly shows them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected.

Places would not normally be considered under this criterion if their degree of achievement could not be demonstrated, or where their integrity was diminished so that the achievement, while documented, was no longer apparent in the place, or simply because they were the work of a designer who demonstrated innovation elsewhere.

'Woodgate' demonstrates a high degree of creative and aesthetic accomplishment and is an outstanding representative of the Inter-war Old English architectural style.

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.

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

It is recommended that the nominated place **fulfils** criterion (e).

(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual association for the community or a group within it.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should be one which the community or a significant cultural group have held in high regard for an extended period. This must be much stronger than people's normal attachment to their surroundings. The association may in some instances be in folklore rather than in reality.

Places will not be considered if their associations are commonplace by nature, or of recent origin, or recognised by a small number of people, or not held very strongly, or held by a group not widely recognised, or cannot be demonstrated satisfactorily to others.

As a well resolved example of a dwelling designed in the Inter-war Old English architectural style, 'Woodgate' may have important associations for some individuals who are interested in that particular style and architects and historians more broadly. However, there is no evidence to suggest that the individuals, architects and historians who may be attached to buildings designed in the Inter-war Old English architectural style are a group that would be broadly recognised by the wider community, or, if a recognised group, that they hold 'Woodgate' in higher regard than the many other properties designed in the same style.

'Woodgate' may also be important to some members of the Johnson/Verco family, however, given that the family is in the process of selling 'Woodgate' and the members directly associated with the property are only a few individuals, they are not considered to constitute a group who would be broadly recognised.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (f).

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

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place must have a close association with a person or group which played a significant part in past events, and that association should be demonstrated in the fabric of the place. The product of a creative person, or the workplace of a person whose contribution was in industry, would be more closely associated with the person's work than would his or her home. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why one place is more significant than others.

Places will not generally be considered under this criterion if they have only brief, incidental or distant association, or if they are associated with persons or groups of little significance, or if they are associated with an event which has left no trace, or if a similar association could be claimed for many places, or if the association cannot be demonstrated. Generally the home or the grave of a notable person will not be entered in the Register unless it has some distinctive attribute, or there is no other physical evidence of the person's life or career in existence.

'Woodgate' is associated with the architectural firm FW Dancker and Son, pastoralist and businessman Lisle G Johnson and the Verco family.

'Woodgate' was commissioned by Johnson as his city-based family home. Johnson also owned 'Hazeleigh' station. As a pastoralist and businessman, Johnson maintained both the station and business premises in the city, at 56 Franklin Street (now demolished). While it is considered doubtful that Johnson is a person of historical importance at the State level, being one of many pastoral property owners and land agents who worked in South Australia during the first half of the twentieth century, if he were considered important to the state then it would be 'Hazeleigh' station that best represents his life and work, rather than 'Woodgate,' his family home.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (g) for its associations with Lisle Gardner Johnson.

While Dr Peter Verco was responsible for introducing a number of medical procedures into South Australia, those contributions were made from hospitals and/or practice rooms and not at Dwelling (former "Woodgate"). If Dr Peter Verco is considered to be a person of historical importance to South Australia it is where he practiced and not his parents-in-laws home that demonstrates his contribution to South Australia.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (g) for its associations with Dr Peter Verco.

FW Dancker and Son is a well-respected South Australian architectural practice. Currently, about 15 properties designed by the firm have been listed as State Heritage Places, including examples of residential, commercial and ecclesiastical buildings. 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* 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 articulated student, date from the earliest period of the firm's work when Frederick was a sole practitioner.

Although the attribution of 'Woodgate' remains unclear, Eric Dancker did create a perspective watercolour painting of an early design for the house executed during 1912, his last year as an articulated student. The plan and elevation drawing (undated) delineate a slightly larger house than the perspective. The house was completed by 1915, with a further addition completed at a later time. While it is not certain that 'Woodgate' was designed by Eric, 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 and other homes designed in a less elaborate form to those attributed to Frederick. The design and construction of 'Woodgate' also coincides with Eric completing his architectural studies and becoming a partner of FW Dancker and Son in 1913.

While the exterior form of the dwelling is a stylistic step change that was simpler than the Federation Queen Anne homes often designed by Frederick, many elements of the design, internal configuration and materials choices of 'Woodgate' closely follow the design considerations for laying out a home as presented in *Modern Dwellings* (see Comparison Rarity Comparability). Some examples include:

- the low-walled terrace/patio, leading to the porch with stepped-brick archway and solid timber door creating a favourable impression on approaching the home,
- the use of gables, brick walls and terra cotta tiles to clad the roof,
- a large hall with elaborate fireplace (designed by Dancker), timber beams and decorative trusses with gargoyles, to create a favourable impression inside the home, while the double doors to the dining and billiard rooms mean the hall and billiard and dining rooms can, as required, become a large space,
- drawing, billiard and dining rooms that feature bay windows, timber beams or moulding to ceiling, multi-pane windows, fireplaces (also bespoke designed by Dancker) with elaborate mantles and surrounds,

- a separate passage for bedrooms, with primary bedrooms facing either east or west, in the case of 'Woodgate' east-facing to capture the morning sun,
- the inclusion of three verandahs integrated into the roof form, which Dancker described as an 'inseparable feature' of the house to create both shade and 'architectural effect',
- the arrangement of food work spaces from the dining room to servery, butler's pantry, kitchen, scullery creating a logical flow that limits transfer of heat and mess to the dining room and other living spaces,
- the kitchen is well illuminated with natural light, features linoleum-covered floors, and can be accessed via a rear passageway,
- the inclusion of large linen cupboards, access to a bathroom from an external door from the garden, dressing room to master bedroom, etc.

'Woodgate' is considered to have a special association with the work of FW Dancker and Son, a prominent South Australian architectural firm known for its residential designs. 'Woodgate' is an important commission for the firm that follows the key design tenets developed by Frederick in *Modern Dwellings*. 'Woodgate' also denotes a transition from Federation Queen Anne to the Inter-war Old English architectural style in the firm's residential designs, setting a new direction for the firm as Eric transitioned from articled student to qualified architect and partner.

It is recommended that the nominated place **fulfils** criterion (g).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

'Woodgate' is a large domestic dwelling designed in 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 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,
- Garage.

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

- Garden,
- Tennis court.

HISTORY

Lisle Gardner Johnson (the first owner of 'Woodgate') was born in 1878 at Medindie and was the youngest son of James Angus Johnson and one of many great grandchildren of George Fife Angus. 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.⁶

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.⁷

The reason for constructing 'Woodgate' was most likely Lisle's marriage to Marjorie McMillan Henderson on 4 March 1911.⁸ 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.⁹

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.¹⁰

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 1973.¹¹

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.

Chronology

Year	Event
1870s	Frederick Dancker is articulated 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 *Modern Dwellings: 100 selected designs*.**
- 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 RECORD

NAME: Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') **PLACE NO.:** 26541

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: City of Prospect

LOCATION: **Street No.:** 5 Fitzroy Terrace
Town/Suburb: Thorngate
Post Code: 5082

LAND DESCRIPTION: **Title** CT 5781/436 F109086 A20
Reference:
Hundred: Yatala

PHOTOS

NAME: Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')

PLACE NO.: 26541



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.



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



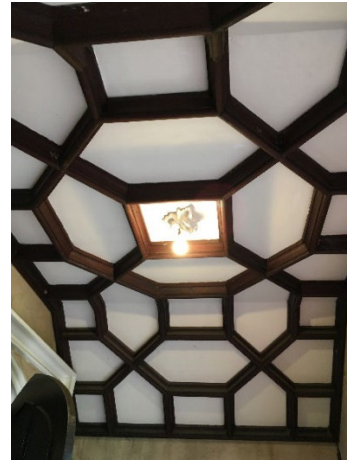
Western elevation looking north, showing garage and verandah accessed from billiard room and over which the dining room and kitchen have views. Note the curved imitation half-timbered bracing, and stepped and patterned brickwork to chimney.



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.



Front door and timber moulding to entrance porch ceiling



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



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



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



Dining room, note detailing to ceiling and fireplace.



Kitchen, note natural lighting.



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



Passage showing partial detail linen cupboards, door surrounds, etc

SITE PLAN

NAME: Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate')

PLACE NO.: 26541



**Dwelling (formerly 'Woodgate') 5 Fitzroy Terrace, Thorngate
(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.
- Garage

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

- Garden, tennis court, rainwater tanks.

LEGEND

 Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)

 Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

N ↑

-
- ¹ 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
- ² John Schenk, 2013), 'Dancker, Eric Phillips', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=123
- ³ Frederick Dancker (1904), *Modern Dwellings: 100 Selected Designs*, FW Dancker: Adelaide), p.2.
- ⁴ *Modern Dwellings*, pp. 2-9.
- ⁵ Richard Apperly, Robert Irving and Peter Reynolds (2011), *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture: Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, (Angas and Robertson: North Ryde), pp.132-135, 202-205.
- ⁶ HT Burgess (1907), *The Cyclopedia of South Australia*, (Cyclopedia Company Alfred G Selway: Adelaide), p.620.
- ⁷ *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>
- ⁸ 'Marriage Johnson-Henderson', *The Advertiser* 6 March 1911, p.8.
- ⁹ 'Thorngate Subdivision', *The Mail* 20 December 1913, p.2. Christine Garnaut, *Colonel Light Gardens Model Garden Suburb*, p.18
- ¹⁰ 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.
- ¹¹ 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>