South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

REGISTER ENTRY

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

NAME: Shandon (flats) PLACE NO.: 26560

ADDRESS: Kaurna Country

88 Moseley Street, Glenelg South 5045

CT 5014/565 S6681 U1; CT 5014/566 S6681 U2; CT 5014/567 S6681 U3; CT

5014/568 \$6681 U4; CT 5014/569 \$6681 UCP

Hundred of Noarlunga

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Shandon (flats) demonstrates an important evolution in the way South Australians lived during the twentieth century. The development of purpose-built flats began to reshape the suburbs after the First World War, providing the middle class with a popular alternative to conventional detached housing. Developed by Edith Duncan as owner-occupier, Shandon (flats) further demonstrates that women were actively involved in the rise of flats as a new way of living during the interwar period.

Constructed in 1940 in Glenelg South, Shandon (flats) is an uncommon example of this new, modern way of living, as the Second World War brought a halt to the construction of dwellings. Shandon (flats) is an outstanding example of purpose-built interwar flats, demonstrating many of the principal characteristics of the class. Shandon (flats) is also an outstanding representative of interwar streamlined architecture, articulating many of the key attributes of the style such as bold, asymmetrical massing, clean lines and rounded corners, and horizontal emphasis with contrasting vertical relief.

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

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

Modern flat living emerged as an entirely new lifestyle, predominantly for the very wealthy, in the early twentieth century in South Australia. The first bespoke multistorey flats built in South Australia was Dwelling – Ruthven Mansions (SHP 13368), constructed in the City of Adelaide in two stages, 1912 and 1915. The impacts of the First World War subsequently halted the further construction of bespoke flats and only a few examples were built before the 1930s. Instead, after the war existing homes were converted into flats as an expedient means to provide more affordable homes for people in desirable locations. However, these conversions while conveniently located did not provide the conveniences associated with modern living.

Purpose-built interwar flats, most of which were built between 1935 and 1942, democratised modern flat living, bringing the new lifestyle within reach of middle-income earners in line with social change. Purpose-built interwar flats responded to demand for housing in popular areas and on transport routes and represent the first wave of urban infill to occur in South Australia. The designers and financiers of purpose-built interwar flats sought to increase the number of occupants that could be housed on a suburban block while simultaneously improving the quality of life of those occupants. Shandon (flats) demonstrates this important evolution in the way South Australian's lived in the twentieth century and the reshaping of the suburbs that occurred as a result, only being halted by the Second World War.

Compared with other places with similar associations, Shandon (flats) demonstrates particularly strong associations with the theme due to its construction in the Glenelg area, which underwent accelerated suburbanisation beginning in the mid-1930s. This process occurred as a result of rising private motor vehicle ownership and the redevelopment of Anzac Highway in 1937, which made Glenelg and its seaside location a convenient and desirable place to live for city workers. Suburbanisation opened Glenelg to middle-class residents and resulted in the construction of new houses and purpose-built flats.

Additionally, commissioned and owned by and the primary residence of Edith Duncan for approximately 35 years, Shandon (flats) also demonstrates the active role women played in the rise of flats as a new way of living during the interwar period.

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

Purpose-built flats emerged during the interwar period as the first popular alternative to conventional detached housing for middle income earners. Purpose-built flats also brought profitable real estate investment within reach of the middle classes and were predominantly built as infill development to satisfy demand for modern accommodation on public transport routes and/or in desirable residential areas such as seaside suburbs. At least 50 purpose-built flat developments were built in metropolitan Adelaide and regional centres before the Second War World halted the construction of dwellings. It is the introduction of this new modern way of living that is considered to be of cultural significance to South Australia.

Due to the halt imposed on the construction of dwellings by the Second World War, purpose-built interwar flats are uncommon in South Australia, with only 50 known developments occurring between 1912 and 1942. With the passage of time purpose-built interwar flats have become increasingly endangered, as a result of their positioning on transport corridors and in seaside suburbs. These popular sites are now again prime locations for redevelopment and urban densification, and only 35 purpose-built interwar flats are known to remain. Of these 35 flats, Shandon (flats) is one of only a few that remain highly intact.

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

Purpose-built interwar flats emerged as an alternative to conventional detached housing and directly addressed the values, aspirations and lifestyles associated with modern living by considering the plan, form and design of the building/s, its context to site and incorporation of a range of exterior and interior features and fittings. Shandon (flats) are an exceptional example of the class as its displays a large number and range of characteristics typical of the class, at a high level of intactness including:

- four flats arranged in a multi-storey block to minimise the building footprint,
- design features to secure privacy, including acoustic measures, spatial arrangement of spaces and views and features to disperse circulation, including rear exits and stairs,
- design features to facilitate access to natural light and ensure adequate ventilation, such as the arrangement of windows, and provision of openable windows and a balcony,
- design features to mitigate domestic labour and enhance convenience, such as built-in furniture,
- provision for sheltered car parking and associated vehicle access, reflecting rising private vehicle ownership,
- communal facilities such as laundries,

- landscaping, including a fence,
- architectural expression emphasising modernity, in response to the attitudes, values and aspirations associated with flat living,
- amenity through visual conformity to surrounding residential context.

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

Designed by Ron Golding and constructed in 1940, Shandon (flats) is an outstanding and highly intact example of interwar streamlined architecture in South Australia, demonstrating a high degree of aesthetic and creative accomplishment and remains highly intact. Shandon (flats) finely articulates many of the style's key attributes, namely:

- bold, asymmetrical massing of simple geometric shapes,
- clean lines, rounded corners and minimal decoration,
- plain surfaces, light-toned cement (now painted) and face brick,
- horizontal emphasis, achieved through contrasting bands of brick and render, exaggerated with alternating striped coursing of standard red and yellow Roman vermiculated bricks, and long balconies,
- contrasting vertical relief, expressed through brick towers containing chimneys,
- internal stairs expressed externally by the vertical emphasis of brick towers,
- cantilevered elements, in this instance balconies,
- corner windows,
- steel casement window frames,
- hipped, Marseille terracotta-tiled roofs,
- architecturally integrated lettering, in this instance 'Shandon' in welded steel, shaped to follow the curves of the facing elevations.

SITE PLAN

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88 Moseley Street, Glenelg South 5045



Shandon (flats), 88 Moseley Street, Glenelg South 5045, CT 5014/565 S6681 U1; CT 5014/566 S6681 U2; CT 5014/567 S6681 U3; CT 5014/568 S6681 U4; CT 5014/569 S6681 UCP, Hundred of Noarlunga.

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

- Shandon (flats),
- Outbuilding comprising garage, laundries and toilet block/s,
- Original exterior material finishes, including terracotta tiled roof; face brick and rendered walls [excluding paint],
- Steel casement window frames,
- Original layout of internal rooms,
- Original interior details, fittings and finishes including concrete blockwork walls, steel rails to stairwells; ceiling
 roses, cornices and mouldings; built-in shelves and cupboards; fireplaces, including unpainted face brick
 details, fireboxes and grates; skirtings and architraves; original floorboards; staircases and rails; and doors,
 door handles, and door glass,
- Brick front fence.

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

- Non-original kitchen and bathroom fitouts,
- Non-original interior paint and floor coverings,
- Reverse cycle air conditioning units,
- Upstairs double-glazed window frames,
- Hot water services,
- Television aerials,
- Trees, shrubs and landscaping,
- Non-original subdivision fences,
- Brush fence.

N↑

LEGEND



Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)

Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

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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

Shandon (flats) consists of one two-storey block of brick and reinforced concrete flats with tiled hipped roofs and boxed eaves. The building is situated on a corner block facing Moseley Street and Bath Street in Glenelg South.

The block contains four self-contained stacked, single storey 'simplex' flats. The layout of each storey is similar, comprising one two-bedroom flat at the front and one single-bedroom flat at the rear. The main entrances are accessed from an internal porch. Each flat also has a back entrance, with timber staircases leading to the upstairs flats. These staircases are located on the southern side.

The exterior walls of the flats are comprised of contrasting bands of smooth render and brick in a Flemish bond pattern, with alternating headers. A reinforced concrete bullnose balcony is cantilevered from and integrated with the rendered bands while window openings, including curved and corner windows, punctate the bands of brick. The window openings are supported by pipe columns and contain steel casement window frames with integrated rendered sills. Some upstairs window frames have been replaced with double-glazed aluminium replicas.

Towers on the northern elevations contain chimneys and are decorated with narrow vertical niches, contrasting with predominantly horizontal banding elsewhere on the elevations. The tower facing Bath Street also contains doorways leading to the internal porch and balcony.

A single-storey brick and timber building at the rear of the block comprises three private garages, two laundries and one lavatory.

There is an original brick front fence with a non-original brush fence on top.

Typical original interior features include:

- ceiling roses,
- · cornices and ceiling mouldings,
- built-in shelves and cupboards,
- fireplaces including unpainted face brick details, fireboxes and grates,
- skirtings and architraves,
- doors, including flat plywood doors and glazed doors, with sandblasted glass details, and door handles,

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• floorboards,

timber staircases and rails.

Elements of Significance:

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- Original exterior material finishes, including terracotta tiled roof; face brick and rendered walls [excluding paint],
- Steel casement window frames,
- Original layout of internal rooms,
- Original interior details, fittings and finishes including concrete blockwork walls, steel rails to stairwells; ceiling roses, cornices and mouldings; built-in shelves and cupboards; fireplaces, including unpainted face brick details, fireboxes and grates; skirtings and architraves; original floorboards; staircases and rails; and doors, door handles, and door glass,
- Brick front fence.

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

- Non-original kitchen and bathroom fitouts,
- Non-original interior paint and floor coverings,
- Reverse cycle air conditioning units,
- Upstairs double-glazed window frames,
- Hot water services.
- Television aerials.
- Trees, shrubs and landscaping,
- Non-original subdivision fences,
- Brush fence.

History of the Place

Flats emerged during the interwar period in South Australia (1914-1945) as an alternative to conventional detached housing, predominantly for the suburban middle classes.1

Nineteenth-century multiple unit housing in South Australia typically comprised a series of attached houses, with standardised floorplans, extending across the street frontage and commonly known as row cottages and terrace houses.² Unlike these nineteenthcentury types, purpose-built interwar flats comprised two or more self-contained dwellings built on a single allotment, typically stacked to form a freestanding, multistorey block and usually set back from the allotment boundaries. Purpose-built flats were designed with flexible plans that considered light, ventilation, privacy and exterior communal open space or gardens. Individual self-contained flats within a block could be spread across a single floor, known a simplex flat, or across two floors, known as a duplex flat.

During the interwar period the terms 'flats' and 'maisonettes' were sometimes used interchangeably, however the term 'maisonette' typically refers to a pair of single-storey, self-contained and usually symmetrical flats sharing a common party wall.³ The term 'apartment' was seldom used in South Australia during the interwar period.

The emergence of flats in South Australia

South Australia's first purpose-built flat development was Ruthven Mansions (15-27 Pultney Street, SHP 13368), commissioned by English developer⁴ R. F. Ruthven Smith,⁵ designed by Adelaide architects A. Barham Black and H. E. Fuller and built in 1912, with a second stage designed by Black and built by Walter Torode⁶ in 1915. When completed Ruthven Mansions represented a national watershed⁷ in the development of apartment buildings and introduced modern flat living into South Australia. Unlike the purpose-built flats of the late 1930s, Ruthven Mansions was designed for a relatively wealthy clientele and boasted numerous innovative features which remained unusual or unique for flats built throughout the interwar period, such as automatic doors, mechanical ventilation, central vacuum cleaning and an electric lift.⁸

Ruthven Mansions was created in response to a nation-wide contemporary trend away from large 'mansion' home ownership by the wealthy, which began in the first decade of the twentieth century. This trend was driven by several factors, including the rising value of city and metropolitan land, 10 changing aesthetic values away from 'ponderous Victoriana' in favour of modern American and European styles and evolving lifestyle preferences towards 'simplicity and convenience' facilitated by rapidly advancing technology.

The abandonment of large mansions was accelerated during and after the First World War due to the 'servant problem.' ¹² Depletion of men from the local labour pool due to the war relaxed social barriers to women finding employment in traditionally male domains such as shops, factories ¹³ and offices, work environments which came to be preferred by women to domestic service.

By 1919, the *Register* noted that the dearth of servants was having 'a decidedly slumping effect' on the values of 'all big residential properties' in Adelaide, alleging that some of Adelaide's 'wealthiest families' were living in hotels or flats. ¹⁴ Many large homes sold off from the late 1910s onwards were converted to other uses including boarding houses, ¹⁵ private hospitals, rest homes and flats, ¹⁶ a process that accelerated into the 1920s and 1930s.

Flat conversions

Improvised flats resulting from dwelling conversions were inevitably less satisfactory than purpose-built flats and were widely considered to be 'regressive and anti-

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modern.'¹⁷ Floorplans were more or less constrained by the external envelope of the building, reducing the penetration of natural light and limiting the efficacy of ventilation. Floors and walls were not soundproofed, readily transmitting sound between flats. Converted flats were typically accessed from doors leading off an internal corridor¹⁸ directly into the living areas, offering less privacy than purpose-built flats, where individual, external front and back entrances were preferred.¹⁹ Unlike purpose-built flats, converted flats did not always possess a self-contained kitchen and/or bathroom and toilet facilities, further compromising privacy.

Reliable statistics are not available; however, it is understood²⁰ that most flats built during the interwar period were conversions of existing dwellings rather than new flats built for purpose. While fewer in number than converted flats, it was purpose-built flats which became most strongly associated with modern flat-dwelling lifestyles in the public consciousness.

Purpose-built flats in the 1920s

After Ruthven Mansions and prior to the mid-1930s, few purpose-built flat developments occurred in South Australia. Notable exceptions included Victor Mansions at Glenelg (1919, demolished),²¹ built as an investment by builder George A. Rule and Haigh Mansions at Henley Beach (LHP, 1921),²² built for Alfred Haigh, proprietor of Haigh's Chocolates.

The First World War curtailed new construction in South Australia and afterwards, new private home ownership was encouraged and subsidised throughout the 1920s through numerous government and private initiatives including the Commonwealth War Service Homes Scheme; the state government's Thousand Homes Scheme; and the construction industry's 'Own Your Own Home' publicity campaign, which encouraged home ownership over renting.²³

Thus the 'overwhelming demand for homes'²⁴ which helped fuel the 1920s construction boom²⁵ was largely satisfied through mass construction of suburban bungalows for middle income earners and to a lesser extent, an abundance of older housing stock suitable for conversion into flats.

In 1928, realtors Wilkinson, Sando & Wyles Ltd reported a demand for 'high-grade' flats suitable for new arrivals to Adelaide accustomed to 'first-class' flat accommodation in cities elsewhere in Australia and overseas.²⁶ However, before this emerging demand could be satisfied with new purpose-built flats, the Depression (1929) brought the South Australian construction industry to a halt.²⁷

The flat debate

Flats represented the first serious 'challenge' to the 'Australian dream' of house ownership and suburban living,²⁸ and 'vied' with new detached housing as 'symbols of modernity.'²⁹ Conservative voices believed that 'new modes of living heralded by

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the advent of flats' would soon 'overwhelm family values symbolised by a house and garden.'30

In South Australia, flats offered a counterpoint to the prevailing trend of detached dwellings on large suburban blocks espoused by the contemporary garden suburb movement. Purpose-built flat developments were nevertheless informed by garden suburb principles, with provision of some common open space or gardens within most purpose-built flat developments.

The emerging popularity of flats generated 'vigorous debate'³¹ in Adelaide's newspapers, a debate which had 'a pronounced impact on the form and function of interwar flat developments.'³²

In light of precedents interstate and overseas,³³ the critics of flats argued that flats and even semi-detached houses would lower the 'tone' of residential suburbs³⁴ and become the 'slums of tomorrow.'³⁵ They feared a vicious cycle of property depreciation and lowered rents followed by the arrival of 'an undesirable class of resident,' lowering property values still further.³⁶ Critics believed flats would 'dwarf' detached buildings, degrading their architectural appearance while also invading the privacy of neighbouring backyards; meanwhile traffic generated by medium-density living would destroy the 'tranquillity and quietness of a district.'³⁷

Flats were also widely considered to be 'hostile' to family life,³⁸ and were even blamed for a declining birth-rate.³⁹ In 1923, the Adelaide the *Mail* newspaper warned potential tenants of the troubles awaiting flat-dwellers:

...from the viewpoint of children flats are an abomination ... they are either cooped up in the box-like apartments or permitted to wander the streets irrespective of the influence of chance playmates and traffic dangers ... children become peevish and their little quarrels tend to upset the equilibrium of the home ... there is nothing to interest the housewife beyond the preparation of odd meals and cleanliness ... no odd jobs await the husband on wet Saturday afternoon or Sunday.⁴⁰

Some local councils, under pressure from concerned electors, unsuccessfully⁴¹ attempted to introduce by-laws⁴² to control flat-building in affluent areas, like Glenelg, where such developments were popular. Valuators, estate agents and builders protested flat 'bans' citing need and demand for flats from young married couples and 'the better type of middle-class man'⁴³ and demanded that applications to build flats should be considered on merit.⁴⁴

The heyday of purpose-built interwar flats 1935-1942

Over 50 developments of purpose-built interwar flats have thus far been identified as being built (1919-1943) in South Australia, with the majority constructed after 1935

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when improving economic conditions coincided with demand.⁴⁵ Flat-building was further spurred during the late 1930s due to a 'severe' shortage of housing caused by the Depression⁴⁶ and reluctance of financial institutions to approve second mortgages to pay for housebuilding, a practice which had been widespread in the 1920s.⁴⁷ Purpose-built flats continued to be built until building restrictions during the Second World War brought an end to all non-essential construction.

Purpose-built flats, which allowed multiple dwellings to fit into a typical suburban block, were predominantly built as a response to land shortages in desirable areas.⁴⁸ Thus, most purpose-built flats were sited along public transport corridors, including on train, tram and bus routes and on main roads such as the redeveloped Bay Road that became Anzac Highway; in the band of suburbs around the city, such as North Adelaide, Unley and Kensington, close to city employment opportunities; and in seaside resorts such as Glenelg, Somerton and Semaphore, where flats supported a transient seasonal population.⁴⁹

Glenelg was 'founded by high society' in the mid-nineteenth century.⁵⁰ Although Adelaide's premier beach destination for decades, the presence of local tourists was seasonal and temporary prior to the 1930s, and the majority of Glenelg's permanent residents remained upper-class families.

Rising car ownership, the development of Anzac Highway and new public transport routes made transportation to and from Glenelg far easier, both for visiting and commuting.⁵¹ Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Glenelg was opened to middle-class residents who could commute to work from their new homes by car.⁵² The popularity of Glenelg led to the emergence of new subdivisions around Glenelg from the 1930s onwards and numerous blocks of flats were built throughout the area.

Because stacked flats could not be sold on individual Certificates of Title,⁵³ blocks of flats were normally owned by a single investor or syndicate of investors, with most of the flats in a block let out to tenants. During the late 1930s flats represented profitable and reliable investment opportunities for both owner-occupier and non-occupier landlords, ⁵⁴ and for builders.⁵⁵

Women's Involvement in the rise of interwar flats

Commonwealth Census data for house and flat ownership in South Australia during the interwar period shows that the number of houses far exceeded the number of flats. However, as elsewhere in Australia and unlike with house ownership, women participated strongly in the rise of flats in South Australian, 'whether as occupants, owners, investors or developers.'56 In South Australia women owned flats in almost equal numbers to men with 45% of flats owned by women by 1947 (see Table 1). In comparison women only owned 15% of houses. While numerically women still owned far greater numbers of houses than flats, the figures do suggest that flat ownership was as readily accessible a home-ownership option for women as for men.

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Table 1: Female and male owner-occupiers in 1933 and 1947

	1933	1947
Flat Ownership		
Female	89	391
Male	111	476
House Ownership		
Female	9,303	10,957
Male	48,115	60,303

The above data is derived from the 1933 and 1947 Commonwealth Censuses. While the 1921 Census was the first to differentiate between male and female home ownership, it did not differentiate between houses and flats. The first to do so was the 1933 Census.

Notable flat developments built for women as investments include Banyanah Flats (1939), 18 Esplanade cnr Bickford Terrace, Somerton Park (heavily modified), for Kathleen Martin of Minlaton and Shandon, 88 Moseley Street, Glenelg South (subject of this assessment), built for Edith Duncan as owner-occupier.

Offering a greater return on investments than detached houses⁵⁷ or maisonettes, the emergence of flats as a new housing type helped to make real estate investment a profitable economic activity for middle income earners during the 1930s and provided a reliable income stream for some women.

Living in purpose-built flats

Purpose-built flats were usually smaller and required less maintenance than a typical detached bungalow and garden⁵⁸ and were marketed to and bought or rented by middle-class⁵⁹ people who could not afford a detached house on a large allotment in a desirable area. This included single people, especially single women, and young married couples attracted to the flexibility, independence or glamour⁶⁰ of the flat lifestyle – many who would otherwise have remained in the family home or lived in a boarding house, possibly deferring marriage, until they could afford ownership of their own detached dwelling.⁶¹

Typically, purpose-built flats featured 'up-to-date'62 appliances and services, including gas, electrical and telephone connections, built-in furniture and other 'labour saving' features.63 These modern conveniences facilitated low-maintenance lifestyles, especially for middle-class people who could not afford servants.64 Less housework and garden maintenance also meant more leisure time, especially for women. For those moving out of the family home for the first time, built-in furniture meant considerably less outlay on furniture.65

Flat-living represented 'a distinctively modern, twentieth century lifestyle' very different to that of the typical 'suburban house-and-garden-dweller.' Purpose-built flats came to be considered 'as much a part of the modern world as the automobile and moving pictures' and their occupants were considered 'moderns.'

Designing purpose-built flats

South Australian purpose-built interwar flats were typically designed in modern styles featuring strong horizontal lines and streamlined curves announcing the modernity of flat life. However, most had conventional terracotta-tiled hipped roofs, instead of the flat roofs usually associated with European Functionalist⁷⁰ architecture. Sometimes tiled hipped roofs were concealed behind parapets, as in the case of Woodlands Apartments (SHP 26299). More commonly such roofs were deliberately expressed with overhanging, boxed eaves, reflecting prevailing trends in domestic architecture throughout the interwar period.⁷¹

The dominance of pitched, tiled roofs in the domestic architecture of the 1930s to some extent reflects the conservatism of South Australia's architectural profession during the interwar period,⁷² but also technological limitations of the time. While known in South Australia in the 1930s, flat roofs were still somewhat experimental, prone to leaking,⁷³ and not all builders were expert in their construction.⁷⁴ Some commentators also questioned the value of flat roofs on houses with large gardens.⁷⁵ Tiled roofs, by contrast, were familiar, functional⁷⁶ and reliable, and thus a sound investment for businesspeople commissioning purpose-built flats during the interwar period.

Perhaps more importantly, tiled roofs helped modern flats conform to the neighbouring suburban context and meet community expectations surrounding appropriate domestic architecture.⁷⁷ For businesspeople commissioning flat buildings, visual amenity was an important consideration in affluent suburbs, where wealthy neighbours might defend their investments from the perceived threat of depreciation by complaining to local government authorities.⁷⁸

Like purpose-built flats elsewhere in Australia, South Australian examples were typically:

...stylish buildings designed to blend in with the streetscape by giving the appearance of large double storey homes ... set back from the road in alignment with other houses in the neighbourhood [and with] attractive garden settings.⁷⁹

Purpose-built flats were designed to create a home-like environment 'according to contemporary notions of modernity and progress,'80 avoiding design features that may have drawn comparisons to converted flats. Privacy was achieved through spatial planning that considered the placement of rooms and provision of separate

entrances and setbacks to protect views. 'Soundproof' concrete floors were also a common feature that reduced noise transmission while also making buildings 'fireproof.'81

Health, hygiene and cleanliness were contemporary preoccupations⁸² that led to the inclusion of features to encourage ventilation, increase penetration of natural light and expedite cleaning, resulting in features such as narrow wings; large windows, including corner windows; balconies, sunrooms and sleepouts; adequate space around buildings; outdoor courtyards; landscaping;⁸³ and plain, flat or streamlined surfaces which did not collect dirt or dust, especially surfaces made from newly-available materials such as stainless steel and plywood.

Newspaper features typically drew attention to the location of flats with regard to main roads and public transport. After rising steadily in the 1920s then falling away during the Depression, private car ownership 'flourished' briefly in the late 1930s,84 though it remained out of reach for most middle- and working-class South Australians.85 Most purpose-built flat developments were designed with garages, driveways and open space to manoeuvre vehicles, although less car accommodation was typically provided in flats built near public transport routes.86

Ronald (Ron) Leslie Golding

One of four brothers, Ron Golding was the second son of Adelaide architect-builder Leonard Golding. Ron Golding demonstrated an early talent for design, with a scheme for a 'cozy and comfortable dwelling'⁸⁷ published in the *Advertiser* while still a teenager. Subsequently he contributed numerous home plans to *Building and Construction* and worked in partnership with his father before launching the Architectural Homes Company (AHC) in 1935,⁸⁸ aged 25, with a stated ambition to build only his own designs through AHC without tendering for work from the profession.

While Golding ultimately found it necessary to occasionally tender for building work from other architects such as Lawson & Cheesman and Gordon Beaumont Smith, most AHC projects were designed by Ron Golding,⁸⁹ sometimes with input from Ron's brother Keith, also an architect-builder who offered structural engineering expertise.

As well as building numerous private residences for businessmen, Ron Golding emerged as South Australia's most prolific designer and builder of purpose-built flats, typically designing in interwar functionalist or streamlined styles with or without flat roofs, depending on the tastes of the client. Notable projects include Everard Court, Morea Flats at 9 Weewanda Street, Glenelg (1938), Felicitas Flats, Wellington Square, North Adelaide (1939) and his own home at 4 Bickford Terrace, Somerton, in sawn basket range stone.

After wartime building restrictions curtailed private construction, Golding secured a government contract to build a pumping station on the Adelaide-Morgan pipeline.

From 1942 until the end of the Second World War Ron Golding switched to shark fishing from Beachport, then revived AHC 'modestly' during the 1950s. Later he established the 'wholly profitable' Paringa Pressed Brick Co. at North Brighton, 'taking advantage of a state-wide shortage of clay bricks,' opened a similar factory at Whyalla and served on the board of the South Australian Hollostone franchise before resigning in 1961. Afterwards he managed Golding Industries, a business specialising in road transport, before his death 1978.⁹⁰

A lesser-known architect,⁹¹ Ron Golding's life and work had been largely forgotten prior to biographical research conducted by Giles Walkley for the University of South Australia Architecture Museum in 2016.

Shandon (flats)



Shandon (flats)

Source: Giles Walkley, 'Adelaide's Supreme Flats', Spirit of Progress (Summer 2016).

The history of Shandon (flats) is interwoven with Everard Court (flats) (SHP 26529). Everard Court is a purpose-built two-storey block of flats featuring two parallel wings situated along Anzac Highway in Everard Park. Designed by Ron Golding, Everard Court was completed in December 1939. The *Mail* described Everard Court as 'a forward step in flat construction in Adelaide' and refuted fears that flats such as Everard Court would create slums. ⁹² Meanwhile, the owner advertised Everard Court in the classified pages of the *Advertiser*, described as 'Adelaide's Supreme Flats ... handy to both city and beaches'. ⁹³ Golding's design for Everard Court was widely admired after its completion. ⁹⁴

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Inspired by Everard Court (flats) (SHP 26529), Edith Duncan commissioned Ron Golding to design a block of flats to replace the house she owned on the corner of Moseley and Bath Streets, Glenelg South.⁹⁵ Prior to the construction of Shandon (flats) the allotment was the site of the first Catholic Church of Our Lady of Victories, built in c.1859. This church was later closed and replaced by a church hall in High Street, Glenelg, built in 1897.⁹⁶ A house was subsequently built to replace the church.⁹⁷

Edith Eliza Emily Duncan (nee Dadswell), married draper Harry Duncan⁹⁸ in May 1914, and their only son, Harry Lewis, was born in November that year.⁹⁹ Edith Duncan purchased the Shandon allotment with existing home in September 1925, with the property transferred in her name alone. ¹⁰⁰ It seems that Edith Duncan held a number of real estate investments also owning the home where she lived with Harry on Penzance Street, Glenelg (acquired July 1922), ¹⁰¹ and two allotments on Brighton Road, Hundred of Noarlunga (purchased in June and December 1922) all as sole proprietor. ¹⁰²

By 1939, the Duncan's lived at Da Costa Park (now Glenelg East) in a house that was owned in Harry Duncan's name. ¹⁰³ Council records list Edith's occupation as 'home duties'. ¹⁰⁴ In c.1939, Edith Duncan approached Ron Golding to design a block of flats to replace the house on the corner of Moseley and Bath Streets, Glenelg South. ¹⁰⁵ The design was based on the southern wing of Everard Court (flats (SHP 26529) and was intended as the family residence and as a source of reliable income. Shandon (flats) was completed in 1940. ¹⁰⁶

Shandon comprises simplex (single-storey) flats over two stories, compared with Everard Court's fourteen flats spread over two stories and two detached wings, including a pair of two-storey 'duplex' flats.

As he had done for Everard Court, Golding adapted the 'cascading' plan and form he first adopted for Morea Flats at 9 Weewanda Street, Glenelg.¹⁰⁷ Morea Flats was in turn most likely informed by Lawson and Cheesman's innovative¹⁰⁸ 1936 plan for Rogart Flats, 4 Malcolm Street, Millswood (LHP). Other features carried over from Everard Court and Morea include a cantilevered balcony and chimneys integrated into feature towers.

Exterior windows on both sides of the block allowed each flat to be effectively cross-ventilated, while it also increased penetration of daylight through exterior windows on both sides of each flat. The 'cascading' plan allowed each tenant a clear view of both Moseley and Bath streets while affording privacy, windows were protected from the neighbouring flats by the setbacks of successive projecting steps. The common balcony provided additional opportunities for access to fresh air and daylight for upstairs tenants. Entries located under the balcony and the internal common staircase offered protection from the weather. As with Everard Court, Golding specified steel casement window frames for all street-facing elevations.

Privacy-oriented features of Everard Court were carried over to Shandon: Golding designed each flat to have an individual entry hall with main rooms accessed from a central passage; 'soundproof' concrete ceilings in the downstairs flats, with timber second-storey floors laid on top; rooms and common stairwells arranged to limit movement of sound between the living spaces of adjacent flats; and individual rear entries and staircases to the upstairs flats.

Like Everard Court, Shandon was also designed with enclosed parking spaces for motor vehicles and provided three private garages with two shared laundries and a toilet all under one roof. Based on the understanding that not all residents of the flats at Shandon would own a car, assigned parking was only provided for three-quarters of the flats.

Harry Duncan died in 1946.¹⁰⁹ Edith lived at Shandon (flats) until c.1974 and owned the property until her death in 1979. It is likely that Edith Duncan received a rental income from tenants of Shandon (flats) between 1940 and 1979.¹¹⁰

Chronology

Year	Event	
1869	The first Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church is built at the corner of Moseley Street and Bath Street in New Glenelg.	
1897	The Second Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church is built on High Street in Glenelg.	
1910	16 December, Ronald (Ron) Leslie Golding born.	
1912	First stage of Ruthven Mansions, Adelaide's first modern flat development, completed for R. F. Ruthven Smith.	
1914	Edith Eliza Emily Dadswell marries Harry Duncan on 16 May.	
	Lewis Harry Duncan in born in November.	
1915	Second stage of Ruthven Mansions completed.	
1919	Charles W. Rutt designs Victor Mansions, Glenelg, for A. Rule	
	June, the Register newspaper reports on the 'servant problem.'	
1921	Subdivision of Everard Park	
	Haigh Mansions completed for Alfred Haigh.	
1924	Bay Road renamed Anzac Highway.	
	Thousand Homes Scheme announced.	
1925	Edith Duncan (née Dadswell) purchases property on the corner of Moseley	

building demolished. A house had been erected in its place.

By this time, the Our Lady of Victories Church had been relocated and the

Street and Bath Street in Glenelg South.

- 1926 The third Our Lady of Victories Catholic Church (LHP) is built on High Street in Glenelg.
- 1928 Ron Golding publishes first project in the Advertiser aged 18.

 October, Wilkinson, Sando and Wyles report shortage of 'high-grade' flats.
- 1929 South Australian Railways' Glenelg line converted to electric tramway.
- 1935 January, News reports modern flats in demand.
 - June, Mail newspaper reports modern flats 'scarce' in Adelaide.
 - 8 August, Ron Golding announces establishment of Architectural Homes Company (AHC), aged 25.

August, Glenelg Council attempts to ban semi-detached houses and flats in new subdivisions.

- 1937 Anzac Highway Agreement Act 1937 authorises the reconstruction of Anzac Highway into a 'modern four-track highway'.
 - 6 October, Roxy Theatre opens on Anzac Highway.
 - (approximate date) Fred Irwin Worthley acquires land on Anzac Highway, Everard Park.
- 1938 Ron Golding completes Morea Flats for C. Westwood.
- 1938 Ron Golding completes Beverley (flats) for Fred Irwin Worthley.
- 1939 Ron Golding completes Everard Court (flats) for Fred Irwin Worthley.9 December, Everard Courts Flats largely occupied.
- 1940 Ron Golding completes Shandon Flats for Mrs. Edith Duncan of Glenelg.
- 1941 Ron Golding completes Bruceden Court Flats for architect G. Beaumont Smith.
- 1943 Fred Fricker completes Mornington Flats, Whyalla, last known purpose-built flat development of the interwar period.
- 1950s Ron Golding revives AHC, later establishes Paringa Pressed Brick Co., serves on board of local Hollostone franchise.
- 1961 Ron Golding resigns from board of local Hollostone franchise, establishes Golding Industries.
- 1978 Death of Ron Golding.
- 2014 Shandon is listed as a Local Heritage Place

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SITE DETAILS

Shandon (flats) PLACE NO.: 26560

88 Moseley Street, Glenelg South 5045

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE: One two-storey block of purpose-built flats made of

brick and reinforced concrete featuring rendered walls and brick towers, with an outbuilding containing

garage spaces, laundries, and toilet block/s.

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1940

REGISTER STATUS: Identified: 8 December 2022

Provisionally entered: 7 December 2023

Confirmed: 27 June 2024

LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS: LHP, listed 13 February 2014

CURRENT USE: Flats, 1940 -

ARCHITECT: Ron Golding, Architectural Homes Company, 1940

BUILDER: Ron Golding, Architectural Homes Company, 1940

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

AREA:

City of Holdfast Bay

LOCATION: Street No.: 88

Street Name: Moseley Street
Town/Suburb: Glenelg South

Post Code: 5045

LAND DESCRIPTION: Title CT 5014/565 \$6681 U1; CT 5014/566

Reference: \$6681 U2; CT 5014/567 \$6681 U3; CT

5014/568 \$6681 U4; CT 5014/569 \$6681

UCP

Hundred: Noarlunga

PHOTOS

Shandon (flats) PLACE NO.: 26560

88 Moseley Street, Glenelg South 5045

All the images of the building's exterior in this section are from DEW Files and were taken on 27 September 2023, unless otherwise noted. All the images of the building's interior in this section have been sourced from publicly available online real estate listings.



Shandon (flats) at the corner of Moseley Street and Bath Street, Glenelg South, note original masonry front fence.



The front of Shandon (flats) facing west.

name: Shandon (flats) place NO.: 26560



The northern side of Shandon (flats), showing tower chimneys and garage.



Southern elevation of Shandon (flats), showing timber staircases at rear.

name: Shandon (flats) place NO.: 26560



'Shandon' name plate and steel-framed casement windows.



Northern elevation showing one of the chimney towers with Flemish bond coursework.



Northern elevation, with eastern elevation on left.



Garage and laundy building on Bath Street.

name: Shandon (flats) place NO.: 26560



Lounge room of western downstairs flat, showing original fireplace, shelving and concrete beams supporting second storey floor.

Source: realestate.com.au, July 2022



Dining room of western downstairs flat, showing the original fireplace.

Source: realestate.com.au, July 2022

name: Shandon (flats) place NO.: 26560



Typical kitchen, showing renovations. Original cupboards are visible in the hallway shown to the left.

Source: realestate.com.au, July 2022



Typical bathroom, showing renovations.

Source: realestate.com.au, July 2022

name: Shandon (flats) place NO.: 26560



View of garden area looking westwards towards Moseley Street, showing steel-framed casement windows.

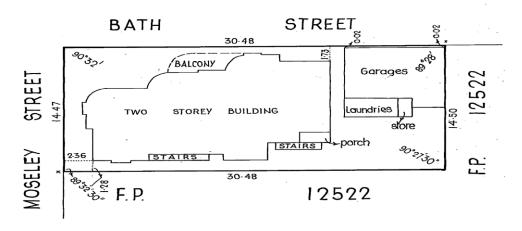
Source: realestate.com.au, July 2022



View of garden area looking eastwards, showing the cantilevered balcony towards the middle.

Source: realestate.com.au, July 2022

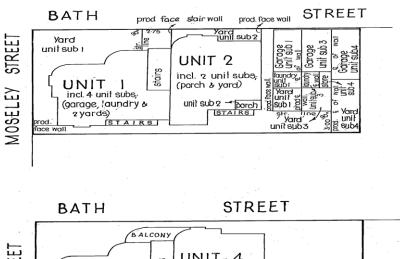
place NO.: name: Shandon (flats) 26560



Shandon (flats), subdivision plan

Source: LTO SP6681

GROUND FLOOR PLAN





Shandon (flats), ground and first floor subdivision plan

Source: LTO SP6681

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- ²⁹ Helen Bennett, Interpreting the Modern: Flatland in Brisbane p.2
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30 Apparty of studentifying Australian Architecture pp. 184-187

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Provisionally entered by the South Australian Heritage Council on 7 December 2023.

Confirmed by the South Australian Heritage Council on 27 June 2024.

- ⁷¹ J. M. Freeland, Architecture in Australia: a history p.257; Dwelling and Flat (former Office/Garage) designed by Christopher Smith in the Art Deco Style for his own residence (SHP 26301), listed under criterion (e), an example of domestic architecture designed in an interwar modern idiom with a tiled, hipped roof.
- ⁷² Louise Bird, Russell S. Ellis: Pioneer Modernist Architect (2007) Adelaide SA: Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design, University of South Australia p.17
- ⁷³ Peter Bell, Carol Cosgrove, Susan Marsden & Justin McCarthy, 'Twentieth Century Heritage Survey, Stage Two1928-1945 Volume 1, Report to Department for Environment and Heritage' (2008) p.28
- ⁷⁴ Peter Bell et al, 'Twentieth Century Heritage Survey, Volume 1', p.28
- ⁷⁵ 'Study Science of Living, Hint to Architects by Judge, Exhibition Lesson', News 16 January 1935 p.7 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article128908307 accessed 15 November 2022
- ⁷⁶ J. M. Freeland, Architecture in Australia p. 257
- ⁷⁷ 'Flats on Albert Terrace. "Building Not Ornate Enough." Cr. Lee Protests', *Glenelg Guardian* 10 April 1924 p.1 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article214723942 accessed 15 November 2022; these flats were deemed 'not ornate enough' and 'not in keeping with the many beautiful homes erected on the terrace'; compare Melbourne; Caroline Butler-Bowdon and Charles Pickett, *Homes in the Sky* pp.66-68
- ⁷⁸ For example 'Glenelg Ban on Certain Flats'.
- ⁷⁹ Jenny Gregory and Robyn Taylor, "The Slums of Tomorrow"?', p. 83
- 80 Helen Bennett, Interpreting the Modern: Flatland in Brisbane p.8
- ⁸¹ 'Features of Modern Flats at Millswood, Additions Possible', Mail 11 July 1936 p.25 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55828667 accessed 15 November 2022
- ⁸² Julie Collins, 'Fresh Air and Sunshine: the Health Aspects of Sleepouts, Sunrooms, and Sundecks in South Australian Architecture of the 1930s' in David Kroll, James Curry and Madeline Nolan, Proceedings of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand: 38, Ultra: Positions and Polarities Beyond Crisis (2022) p.157
- 83 Julie Collins, 'Fresh Air and Sunshine' p.157-158.
- ⁸⁴ Peter Donovan, 'Motor cars and freeways: measures of a South Australian love affair' in Bernard O'Neil, Judith Raftery and Kerry Round (eds), *Playford's South Australia*: essays on the history of South Australia, 1933-1968 (1996) Adelaide: Professional Historians Association p.202
- Peter Donovan, 'Motor cars and freeways: measures of a South Australian love affair', p.202
 Helen Bennett, Interpreting the Modern: Flatland in Brisbane p.343
- ⁸⁷ 'Home Architecture', Advertiser 24 October 1928 p.22 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article29309478 accessed 15 November 2022
- 88 'Architectural Homes Co. Formed', Building & Construction 8 August 1935 p.15
- ⁸⁹ Giles Walkley, 'Golding, Leonard, and sons Ronald and Keith' in *Architects of South Australia Database* https://architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=131 accessed 15 November 2022
- 90 Giles Walkley, 'Golding, Leonard, and sons Ronald and Keith'
- 91 Giles Walkley, 'Golding, Leonard, and sons Ronald and Keith'
- ⁹² 'Architectural Homes Co. Erect Modern Flats at Everard Park, Anzac Highway, Now Open for Inspection', *Mail* 9 December 1939 p.28 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article55755329 accessed 15 November 2022
- 93 'Flats and Rooms to Let, Adelaide's Master Flat or Residence', Advertiser 3 May 1939 p.6 http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article74418819 accessed 15 November 2022
- 94 Giles Walkley, 'Golding, Leonard, and sons Ronald and Keith'
- 95 Walkley, 'Adelaide's Supreme Flats', p.24
- ⁹⁶ 'Our Lady of Victories: Crowing the Efforts of Sixty-Seven Years at Glenelg', Southern Cross (Adelaide), 1 October 1926, p.13.
- ⁹⁷ The 1939 Electoral Roll lists Edith's address as 3 Williams Av, Da Costa Park. The City of Glenelg's Assessment Book for 1939-1940 shows that the property had previously been described as a 'house. See 1939 Electoral Roll, No. 3067 and no. 1592, pt. 295 in Assessment Book for the Town of Glenelg, 1939-1940, City of Glenelg, p.107.

Summary of State Heritage Place: 26560

^{98 &#}x27;Duncan, Harry', 259/664, Marriage Registrations, Genealogy SA.

^{99 &#}x27;Duncan, Harry Lewis', 949/55, Birth Registrations, Genealogy SA.

¹⁰⁰ CT 1389: 41, 4 September 1925.

¹⁰¹ CT 1242/29

¹⁰² CT 1259/175; CT 1238/154

¹⁰³ LTO Vol. 1523, Folio 146. A Da Costa Park property is listed with Edith Emily Duncan's name on the Historical Name Index: LTO Vol. 1342, Folio 114.

¹⁰⁴ 1939 Electoral Roll, No. 3067. Microfiche, City of Holdfast Bay History Centre.

¹⁰⁵ Walkley, 'Adelaide's Supreme Flats', p.24

¹⁰⁶ Giles Walkley, 'Adelaide's Supreme Flats', p.24.

¹⁰⁷ Giles Walkley, 'Adelaide's Supreme Flats', p.23.

¹⁰⁸ Michael Page, Sculptors in Space p. 188; "Features of Modern Flats at Millswood"

^{109 &#}x27;Duncan, Harry', 698/1323, Death Registrations, Genealogy SA.

¹¹⁰ Given that Edith's family inherited Shandon in its entirety in 1980 following her death in 1979 and that the current strata plan was not registered until 1985, it is likely that Edith received rental income from the other flats for decades, possibly as her primarily source of income. See CT 4156/272 and SP 6681.