

CULTURAL
HERITAGE
in NPSP

Kent Town Village *Historical Walk*

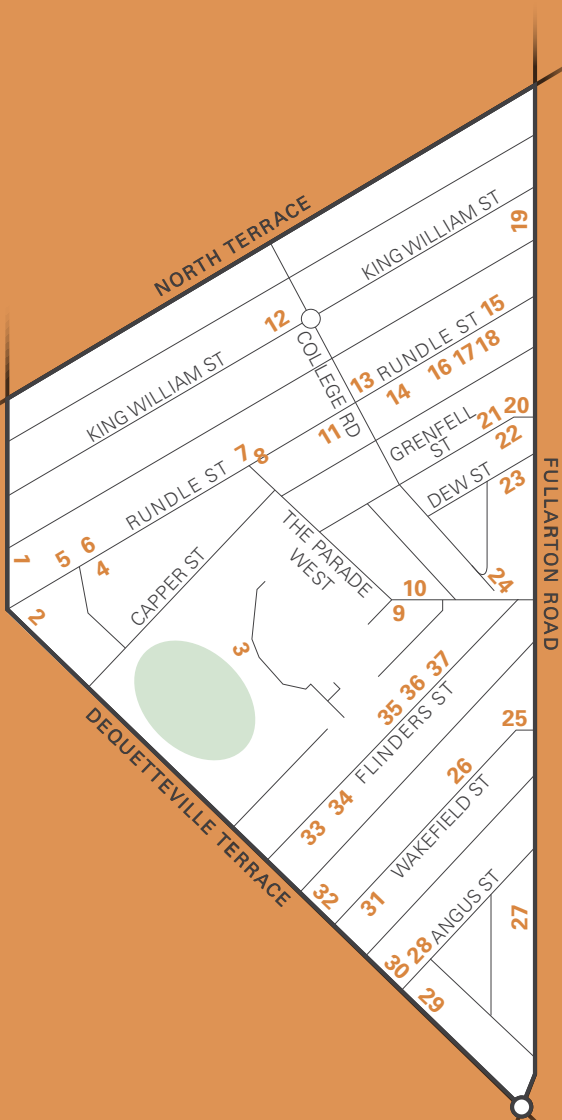


City of
Norwood
Payneham
& St Peters

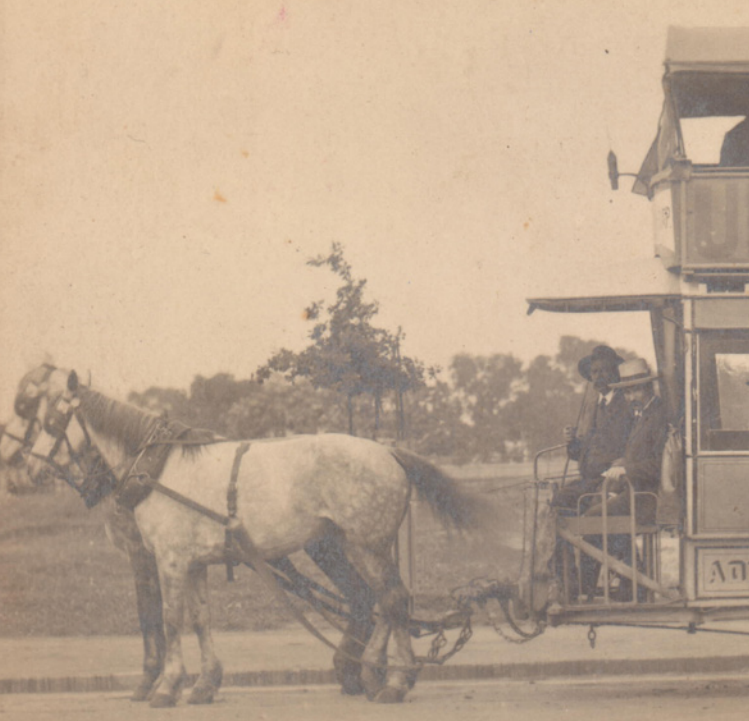


*Kent Town is unique and rich in atmosphere,
a blend of old and new, within walking
distance of the Adelaide CBD.*

1. Grand Villa
2. The Brewery
3. Prince Alfred College
4. John Martin's Old Warehouse
5. Sefton House
6. Terrace Houses
7. Powell's Shop
8. Kent Town Embankment
9. Site of former Kentish Arms Inn
10. Site of former Bureau of Meteorology
11. Kent Town Hotel
12. Private Residence
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16. Attached Houses
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19. Early Victorian Shop
20. Kent Town Wesley Uniting Church
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26. Georgia Mews
27. Colonial Shop & Dwelling
28. Site of former Girton House
29. Sera House
30. Grand Mansion (CWA)
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33. Private Residence
34. Villa
35. St Jacques
36. Mayford
37. Aparima



Cover image:
John Martin's Old Warehouse



The Guide

The following guide has been prepared to instil an appreciation of the modern-day revitalisation of Kent Town from the perspective of its continuity with the past. And to also acknowledge the importance of the district's-built heritage which through its scale and character gives a unique sense of place.

A map has been provided to give an overview and to indicate the location of each historic building or item listed by number. A brief description is provided giving an insight into the history and local significance of each place. The walk should be undertaken on foot to fully appreciate the atmosphere and ambience of the area.



The number of Rundle Street stores doubled with the introduction of horse-drawn trams.

Start

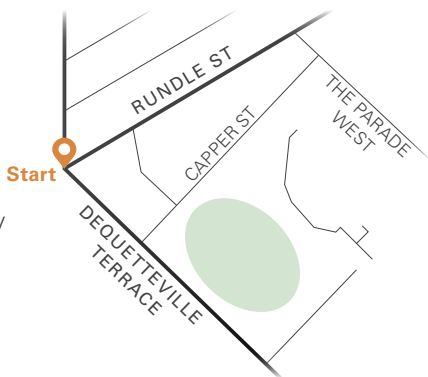
Walk begins at the intersection of Dequetteville Terrace and Rundle Street opposite the Brewery apartments.

Terrain

Some areas of rising incline but mostly flat ground.

Time

Allow two hours.



Early Settlement

Prior to European settlement the area now known as the Adelaide Plains was occupied by the Kurna. Kurna territory was a narrow tract of land stretching from Crystal Brook in the mid-north to Cape Jervis in the south with the Mount Lofty Ranges forming a natural border to the east.

Dr Benjamin Archer Kent arrived in the Province of South Australia in April 1840 but prior to his departure from London he entered into a land agreement with Lieutenant Colonel Robert Torrens. Within a few days of arriving in the colony, Dr Kent renegotiated his lease and settled on land in Section 255 near Norwood instead of settling at Thebarton as originally intended.

He erected a wooden prefabricated cottage in a grove of wattles on the corner of Rundle Street and Dequetteville Terrace. It was called 'East Park Cottage' and he established a garden and orchard around his home and the remainder of the section was referred to as East Park Farm.

For several years Dr Kent's house was the only building between the city and Kensington Village with the country between described as 'heavily timbered, with an abundance of wildlife.'

In 1840, at Governor Gawler's urgent request, Dr Kent converted the brick machinery he had brought from England to be able to grind corn. His East Park Mill was the first mill in the province and located on First Creek between Little King William Street and North Terrace.

In 1857, it became Logue's Brewery in King William Street. As it turned out, neither brick making or grinding corn were a profitable enterprise and so Dr Kent returned to the practice of medicine. He was appointed to the first South Australian Medical Board and was one of the founders of St Peter's College.

Ownership of Kent's land was not clear and after nineteen years of wrangling with Colonel Torrens an agreement was finally reached.

Torrens sold the land to Charles Robin, who paid compensation to Dr Kent and reserved for him 13 acres on which East Park Cottage stood.

Robin subdivided in 1854 and sold allotments for residential development. Dr Kent at last financially solvent, elected to return to England and died there in 1864.

Prince Alfred College was established in 1869 on the remainder of what was Robin's land and Kent Town quickly developed into a residential area for the wealthy and their servants.

1. Grand Villa

12 Dequetteville Terrace

An elegant two-storey, bluestone gentlemen's residence built in 1868 by Henry Muirhead, a successful jeweller and businessman. In 1877, it was occupied by Henry Mais, Manager and Engineer-in-Chief of the South Australian Railways.

In 1888, James Shaw, a prominent building contractor and Mayor of Adelaide from 1888 to 1889 bought the property. Because of his social and civic commitments he added the ballroom on the northern side. In the early 1900s, it was a school for boys, known as "Canterbury House" under the control of Canon Poole, a Church of England minister.

For a number of years, it was a boarding house and in 1913 it was called 'Glengarret' Obstetrical Hospital a private maternity hospital. Following World War I, it became the headquarters of the Royal Australian Nurses Federation. In the 1980s it was converted to commercial office space.

2. The Brewery

Crn Dequetteville Terrace & Rundle Street

The Kent Town Brewery was built on the site of Dr Kent's cottage, in 1876 for Sir Edwin T Smith. Ironically, known as 'Poverty Corner'. The Old Kent Town Brewery was the end of the 'penny' section for trams to the city and so many workers hopped off and walked to the city to save a penny.

Standing in a prominent position, the malthouse was an imposing structure which the Register of the June 15 1876, described as 'the commodious lofty storerooms, paved yards and cellars, first class machinery, well-ventilated workrooms, outhouses, offices...where large operations are carried on for brewing and malting'.



2. The Brewery

In 1888, the Kent Town and West End Breweries combined to form the South Australian Brewing Company and Kent Town became the main malting site. The former concrete silos were demolished in 2000 with the redevelopment of the site for residential purposes.

3. Prince Alfred College

23 Dequetteville Terrace

When Charles Robins decided to sell his 13 acres in 1865, the Wesleyan Methodists purchased the land with a view to building a college on similar lines to the Anglican, St Peters College.

Mr Abbott was the first architect and William Lines the building contractor. H.R.H. Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, laid the foundation stone of the central section in 1867 and the building was completed in the following year with teaching commencing in 1869.



3. Prince Alfred College

It was built of Glen Osmond stone with freestone dressings and the slate roof was finished with an iron ridge cresting. Major donors were T.G. Waterhouse and Sir John Colton. Waterhouse Wing (south-eastern) was added in 1877 and the Colton Wing (north-western) in 1881.

The science hall was opened in 1891 and by 1905, the cast iron fence and railings had been erected around the front grounds. The adjoining residence of Alexander Dowie was acquired by the college and opened as a preparatory school in 1911.

4. John Martin's Old Warehouse

Rundle Street

This charming brick building was built in 1912 on land where the company's stables had operated since 1885. From 1933, this was the site where the famous Christmas Pageant Floats were stored. John Martin's vacated the premises in 1965.

The adjoining warehouse was demolished in 1978 for the SA Housing Trust's 'Dr Kent's Paddock Community Housing Project'. Over the years, the warehouse has received numerous commendations or sympathetic alterations to building use.



4. John Martin's Old Warehouse

5. Sefton House

17 Rundle Street

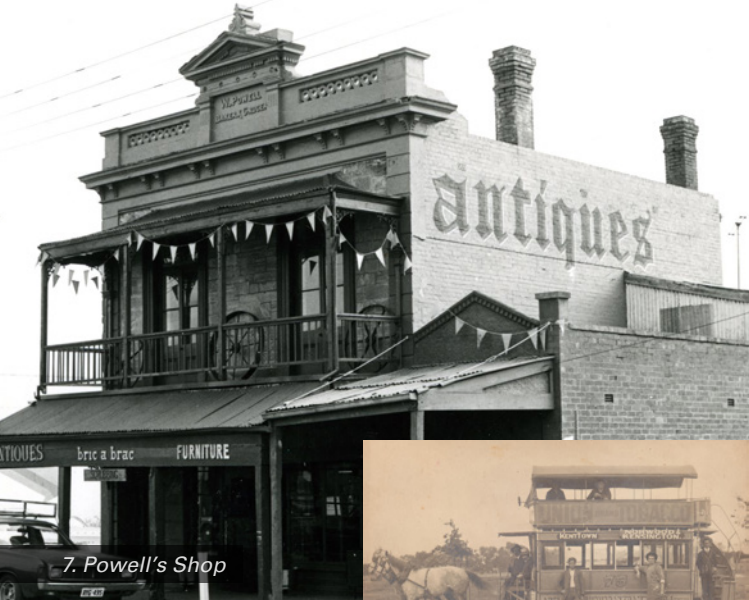
A two-storey house with a parapet and lacework. Mrs Rosman had previously operated the shop across the street, which had been demolished for John Martins, and found that she could not be idle, so she bought the window of her old shop and had it placed in the wall of her parlour turning it into a general store.

The building remained in the family until the 1960s. In the 1990s, Wakefield Press one of the few significant publishers located outside of Sydney or Melbourne occupied the building until shifting to The Parade West.

6. Terrace Houses

21–29 Rundle Street

First assessed as a dwelling in 1857 and owned by Mary Ann Foster, in 1878 it was rebuilt. Consisting of five bluestone terrace houses with gable roofs and a shared front draped verandah they were known as Swiss Terrace.



7. Powell's Shop

61 Rundle Street

Horse-drawn tram

This sandstone and brick building was constructed for William Powell, grocer and baker, who had traded at this site since 1867. It features an ornate stuccoed parapet and pediment, bearing the inscription 'W Powell, Baker and Grocer' with colonial doors and a cantilevered balcony. A tiny shop adjoins the main premises.

In 1875, there were nine shops in the street, this had doubled by 1885 with the introduction of the horse drawn trams which operated from Kensington using Rundle Street.

8. Kent Town Embankment

A steep incline was a natural feature of the contours that extended from North Terrace, almost to Dequetteville Terrace, along the northern side of Wakefield Street. Due to this incline the trams travelling along Rundle Street required an extra horse to haul the cars up the rise to the Kent Town Hotel.



9. Kentish Arms Inn

9. Site of former Kentish Arms Inn

43 The Parade West

Established in 1855 the old inn was a stopping place for coaches en route to villages in the hills and further out. Attractions included a skittle alley. A landmark at the end of The Parade until 1918 when it was demolished and the present building was erected for American Dry Cleaners Pty Ltd.

10. Site of former Bureau of Meteorology

25 College Road

The site was lowered in major engineering works removing a portion of the embankment for the electric trams in 1909. The previous three-storey building, which opened in 1977, has been demolished and replaced with a residential development.



11. Kent Town Hotel

11. Kent Town Hotel

76 Rundle Street

First licensed in 1856, the hotel was a polling place for municipal elections. In April 1859, patrons were invited, at a cost of fifteen pence, to a testimonial dinner for explorer John McDouall Stuart prior to his 1859 expedition to find the centre of Australia. Rebuilt in 1882, the balcony was added after World War I.

12. Site of Private Residence

69 King William Street

William J Maxwell, one of the finest sculptors in Australia lived here from 1885 to 1892 and continued to own the property until his death in 1903. He came from Scotland for the building of the Bank of South Australia, which is now Edmund Wright House.

His work included the marble panel in the west face of the tower of Clayton Church, the statue of Robert Burns, the model for the statue of John McDouall Stuart and the first stage of Parliament House. He also made the altar for St Mary's Cathedral in Sydney.

13. Two-storey House

97 Rundle Street

One of the original houses in Kent Town, a red brick and sandstone house with a hipped roof dating back to 1857. Mr George Mills, a carpenter owned the property from 1857 until 1899. In later years, he was described as a “gentleman” and served as a councillor for Kent Town in 1884.

14. Dwellings

90–92 & 94–96 Rundle Street

Built for Gottlieb Kuhnell in 1893, these dwellings are interesting examples of domestic architecture. They are constructed of stone and brick and feature circular vents surrounded by curved bricks which indicates skilled brickmaking.

The Hon B. T. Finniss, who later became South Australia’s first premier, lived in a house on this site from 1883 to 1886 where he composed his *The Constitutional History of South Australia*. He had arrived with Colonel Light as a surveyor and was a member of the first SA Legislative Council.

15. Two-storey Shop

107 Rundle Street

A beautiful sandstone building with brick quoins, hipped roof, parapet and a cantilevered balcony was built in 1863 for Henry Dew, a baker from the Isle of Man. He operated from this site and served as a local councillor for Kent Town from 1872 to 1882.

In the 1970s, to continue the culinary tradition, Maggie Ellis created one of Adelaide’s first restaurants known simply as ‘Maggie’s’. It was where a whole generation wined, dined and decided to tie the knot. In 1996, Adelaide artist David Bromley established the quirky Tin Cat Cafe.

16. Attached Houses

98 & 100 Rundle Street

Pair of attached red brick houses built in 1910. Note the unusual curved extension of the corrugated iron roof reflecting a transition in styles between the late 19th century villa and the newer Federation House.

17. Cecil Mansions

112–118 Rundle Street

Built in 1896 as multiple residences and named Clifton Terrace they were converted to flats in 1923. Owned by Cecil Richard's, father of, former Kensington & Norwood Mayor Jack Richards and founder of the firm which was a precursor to Chrysler Mitsubishi Australia.

18. Victorian Shop and Dwelling

120 Rundle Street

Built 1884 for John White a chemist and pharmacist now adapted for commercial use.

19. Early Victorian Shop

11 Fullarton Road

Typical of the era, the shop has a hipped roof, front verandah and cast iron posts and was built in 1870 for George White, a baker. His son Thomas carried on the business and was elected to Kensington & Norwood Council in 1886. He was elected Mayor in 1892 and served three years.



20. Kent Town Wesley Uniting Church

20. Kent Town Wesley Uniting Church

Fullarton Road

Designed to be a grand Methodist cathedral in 1864 by architect Edmund Wright and built of bluestone from Tapley's Hill. The church was erected on land donated by John Colton, a wealthy merchant, and when completed it could hold 1500 people.

It was funded by donations from wealthy Kent Town notables such as Francis Faulding of the pharmaceutical business, Thomas Waterhouse, Thomas Padman, merchant brothers William & Thomas Rhodes, George P. Harris (founder of the Harris Scarfe firm) and Michael Kingsborough (importer and later accountant and estate agent).

Michael Kingsborough was the first treasurer of the church and Mayor of Kensington & Norwood 1870 to 1871. Most people who attended service resided locally. Transepts were added in 1867, vestries and classrooms in 1869 and a lecture hall in 1874. The beautiful choir platform and ornamental cast iron rails and cedar pews were added in 1870.

The famous Dodd Organ was installed in 1898. The cathedral serviced Prince Alfred College, which was established at the same time as the church. A building with an aura of past religious splendour.

21. Private Residence

25 Grenfell Street

A Victorian bluestone house which was built for Charles Fry, it features vine leaf lace brackets and multi-paned windows. Wesley Church has owned it since 1890.

22. The Manse

36 Grenfell Street

Built as a manse for the church in 1876. Beautifully detailed and soundly constructed, the building retains its Victorian character. Next door was the grand boarding establishment of Kent Manor which was demolished in 1967.

23. Private Residence

37 Fullarton Road

Built in 1903, a late Victorian house with twin gables notable for its symmetrical design converted to office use in 1976.

24. Grand Villa

36 College Road

A typical gentleman's villa and a beautiful example of late Victorian architecture built in 1889 by pastoralist and farmer, William J Bowman. In 1903, it was owned by J. H. Weidenhofer the eldest son of D. H. Weidenhofer who came to SA in 1854.

Weidenhofer Senior was a prominent builder and also well known in musical circles. In the 1930s, the house was Dr Mueck's home and surgery.



24. *Grand Villa*

He was followed by Dr Reginald Bickford, of the famous Bickford lime juice family. He vacated the premises in mid 1960's and Francis Roy Thompson's artist studio was in the original stable block from about 1950 until his death in 1967. The stable block has since been demolished.

25. Parapet

First Creek, crn of Fullarton Road & Wakefield Street

The old brick parapet was part of the original bridge over the creek. The time from 1858 to 1860 saw bridges erected over most of the streets intersected by the creeks in the district.

The work of spanning the creeks was hastened by the occurrence of a serious disaster in 1863, when a man sustained fatal injuries after falling through the woodwork of the old Edward Street Bridge. At the subsequent inquest the coroner blamed the Kensington & Norwood Corporation for neglect.

26. Georgia Mews

31–33 Wakefield Street

Georgia Mews a series of old terrace houses built in 1878 for W.T. Flint, an Adelaide ironmonger.

27. Colonial Shop & Dwelling

69 Fullarton Road

Built in 1868 by Joseph Peddy, a blacksmith. It is constructed of bluestone with brick quoins. A notable feature is the colonial shop front with its solid wooden lintel above and the red gum sill below.

28. Site of former Girton House

15 Angas Street

Now demolished, this was the home of William Rhodes 1858 to 1893 one of Kent Town's first residents. From 1915 to 1926 it was Girton House a private boarding and day school for girls. When the school moved to Kensington Park 1926 it remained as boarding accommodation until 1930.

It was a Guest Home from 1930 to 1940 and then it was converted into apartments until 1960. It was demolished in 2002 even after concerns for its preservation were raised by the Preserve Kent Town Association.

29. Sera House

33 Dequetteville Terrace

An original bungalow, built in 1915 for A.E. Hamilton, an accountant. Designed by radical architect F. W. Dancker. Its unevenly pitched roof is covered with flat galvanised iron sheets, with rolled side joints and beaten over battens. The roof projects about one metre over the front walls to form timber-lined eaves.

The front screen door slides into a wall recess. The interior is noted for its magnificent innovative parquetry flooring, arched brick fireplaces and built-in cupboards.

In the 1960s, Dr Charles Duguid, who was an advocate for Aboriginal health and welfare and a progressive social thinker, lived in the house.

30. Grand Mansion (CWA)

30 Dequetteville Terrace

Charles Fisher bought the land from his brother Daniel in 1861 and erected a gentleman's house of 12 rooms, stables and garden on the site. In the following year, he let it to G.P. Harris, ironmonger and founder of Harris Scarfe.

Charles Fisher was a prominent colonist who with his brother Daniel, Mayor of Kensington & Norwood 1863 to 1865, established a partnership as grain exporters. The SA Country Women's Association acquired the premises in 1951. It is set in an attractive mature garden behind its original stone and cast iron fence.

31. Private Residence

2 Wakefield Street

In 1868, Charles Fisher bought adjoining allotments 285 and 286, Wakefield Street, Kent Town. The allotments remained vacant until he built the house in 1882. On completion he immediately let it to W&T Rhodes, retail merchants of Rundle Street, Adelaide.

Charles Fisher last occupied his house from 1889 to 1892, but let it to W.L. Glyde, prominent and long serving M.L.C in 1893.

In 1894, Charles Fisher reoccupied the house and remained there until his death in 1902 at the age 79. The house features detailed cast iron columns, lacework brackets and balustrading on the balcony above the bay window. Past occupants include Dr Reginald Bickford and Dr David Tonkin, former Premier of South Australia.

32. Zurich House

28 Dequetteville Terrace

Built in 1875 for Charles Hornabrook, hotel keeper. Sold in 1879 to Thomas Graves, a merchant. Prior to World War II it was the home of Sir Edward Holden of the famous Holden car family. Its pillared cast iron fence has been retained.

It was used during the World War II by the army intelligence and was then purchased by the Schools Patriotic Fund as a hostel for country girls who were mainly student teachers. At this time, it was named Adelaide Meithke Home, after the organiser of the fund, Miss Adelaide Meithke, OBE, MA.

Adelaide Meithke is best remembered as the woman who brought education to children into the outback by establishing the School of the Air Service in 1951.

33. Private Residence

6–8, 10–12 and 16 Flinders Street

A pair of semi-detached early Victorian bluestone houses built in the 1870's. They have a hipped roof and front verandah.

A pair of attached bluestone villas with corrugated iron roof and return gables at each end circa 1870.

Large Edwardian house built in 1911 of random sandstone, rough cast render, red brick and with a hipped Dutch gable roof. It features a return verandah on three corners. The front room has oeil-de-boeuf type window demonstrating the influence of the Federation movement.

34. Villa

18–20 Flinders Street

The house began with five room in 1856 and grew to twelve rooms by 1864. The house was built for Frederick Carlin, a general merchant and importer who was the second Mayor of Kensington & Norwood.



35. *St Jacques*

Lady Charlotte Bacon, widow of General Bacon, also resided here. Lady Bacon was a close friend of Lord Byron, who sent his carriage to her while she resided in South Australia.

35. *St Jacques*

19 Flinders Street

A two-storey bluestone mansion built in 1882 on four acres, which had been reserved by Charles Robin when he subdivided Kent Town for his brother, James. Italian marble fireplace surrounds and English chandeliers were imported and the cast iron gates have the 'JR' monogram.

The house was called *St Jacques* from a family connection in the Channel Islands. Later, when Sir George Ritchie occupied the house, it was called *Port Seton*.

Two small cannons used for fog warning on the River Murray stood inside the main gateway as Sir George Ritchie's father had been riverboat skipper. Sir George Ritchie served in the South Australian Parliament for 41 years.

It is now the residence of the Headmaster of Prince Alfred College. Note the simple red brick bridge circa 1870 is built over First Creek.

36. Mayford

23 Flinders Street

Also on Charles Robin's four acres, the Victorian bluestone villa features a hipped roof and ornate stuccowork. Built in 1876 for George Scrymgour, a printer. During World War I it became a private hospital administered by Matron Briggs from 1918 to 1948.

37. Aparima

29 Flinders Street

One of the older houses in Kent Town, it was built in the early 1860s for Thomas Wallis, who was a tailor. It is an attractive colonial bluestone house with twin gable roof and brick parapet.

Notes

City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters

175 The Parade, Norwood SA 5067

Telephone 8366 4555

Email townhall@npsp.sa.gov.au

Website www.npsp.sa.gov.au

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