

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

NAME: Highgate Park (former Julia Farr Centre)

PLACE: 26574

ADDRESS: Karna Country
103 Fisher Street
Fullarton

NOTE: The original name for Highgate Park was the Home for Incurables. Defining people with a disability as 'incurable' by current mores is considered to be offensive. Consequently, Home for Incurables is only used infrequently and where historically necessary in this document. It favours using 'the Home' when referring to Highgate Park prior to it being renamed, firstly as the Julia Farr Centre in 1981 and later Highgate Park from 2006.



Highgate Park, East Block and Gosse Building (above) Chapel and Roundhouse (below).

Source: Renewal SA



ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Heritage Significance:

As this place is not considered to meet any of the State criteria, a Statement of Heritage Significance has not been prepared.

Relevant South Australian Historical Themes

Highgate Park (former Julia Farr Centre) is associated with the following historic themes and subthemes:

4. Building Settlement, Towns and Cities

4.9 Living on the fringes (including homelessness)

6. Developing Social and Cultural Life (Supporting and building communities)

6.3 Providing health and welfare services

Comparability / Rarity / Representation:

Highgate Park (2006-2020) is the most recent name for the place originally established as the Home for Incurables (1879-1981), which has also been known as the Julia Farr Centre (1981-1994) and then Julia Farr Services (1994-2006). Initially created to provide a home for older South Australians who were living with diseases or disabilities that were considered 'incurable', the age of the people who lived at this place was later broadened to include adults of all ages and also children. From 1981, 15 became the youngest age a person could reside at Highgate Park (former Julia Farr Centre).

Highgate Park has a number of associations that are considered as a part of the comparability, rarity and representation section, including places that are associated with the themes living on the fringes and providing health and welfare services in South Australia (institutional care); nurses' homes; Julia Farr and Dr William Gosse, who were both instrumental in establishing the Home; and architect James Irwin who was a long serving Committee member at the Home and President during its major redevelopment; and, Brutalist architecture. Each is considered in turn.

Institutional Care

The provision of institutional care in South Australia for people living with a disability emerged in the mid-nineteenth century from a broader charity and/or philanthropic movement to provide services for people perceived to be in need. However, by the 1960s institutional residential care methods were being strenuously challenged and new ways of providing care for people living with a disability began to emerge (see history). There are many places that are associated with the provision of health and welfare services in South Australia, including at least 20 places that are listed as State Heritage Places for their associations with the institutional care of people who lived with either one or more diseases and/or disabilities. A sample of such State Heritage Places includes:

- Verco Building, Minda Home, 12-16 King George Avenue, North Brighton, 1914, residential care supporting children with disabilities, (SHP 14474).
- Townsend House, 28 King George Avenue, Hove, 1878, care of vision and hearing impaired children, (SHP 10546).
- Dwelling (former Ebenezer Baptist Chapel), 21-29 Brougham Court, North Adelaide, built in 1843 and closed in 1870 after the congregation declined, it was later used as the brush making workshop for vision impaired adults from 1885-c.1895, (SHP 13538).
- Former Blind Welfare Institute (former Wesleyan Methodist Church Hall), Archer Street, North Adelaide, built 1882-1883 as a church hall and listed for its association with Methodism in South Australia, in the late 1930s it became a part of the Melrose House complex (built 1938) to accommodate the elderly without sight, (SHP 13609).
- Hillcrest Hospital (former Administration Building, Mortuary and Superintendence's House), 18 Heritage Court, Oakden, 1926-1929, three structures representing mental health care in the interwar period at the Northfield Mental Hospital, (SHP 14447).
- Angas Home, 92 Shepherdson Road, Parafield Gardens, including residential wings, kitchen, manager's residence and Florence Thompson Memorial), built 1898-1899 and operating until 1979, a residential home for deaf people incapacitated by age or otherwise unable to earn a living (SHP 10650).
- Estcourt House, 175-177 Military Road, Tennyson, from 1894 it provided accommodation for the elderly and children with a disability, by 1931 it was a convalescent home for children only, for such conditions as asthma and post-polio syndrome, from 1978 it provided accommodation for adults with intellectual disabilities and then 1981-1989 it was a home for children with intellectual disabilities (SHP 11971).
- Nunyara Conference Centre (former Nunyara Sanatorium), 5 Burnell Drive, Belair, 1902, tuberculosis sanatorium demonstrating new ideas about 'open-air' treatment (SHP 26401).
- Multicultural SA Offices (former Stow Memorial Church Manse, former Sanatorium, later Attorney-General's Building), 16-24 Flinders Street, Adelaide, State heritage listing related to the building's adaptation and use as a sanatorium in the first decade of the twentieth century (SHP 10768).
- Retreat House (former Home for Inebriates), 29 Gloucester Avenue, Belair, treatment of alcoholism in the nineteenth century (SHP 14784).
- Female Section former Destitute Asylum, Kintore Avenue, 1856, provided accommodation for people who were destitute, in part due to injury, illness, and old age (SHP 13666).
- Lying in Section former Destitute Asylum, Kintore Avenue, 1856, provided accommodation for people who were destitute and in need of maternity services (SHP 13665).

Nurses Accommodation

Highgate Park once had two nurses' homes, with the Gosse Building still remaining on site, while the other known as the South West Nurses' Home, or Ringwood, has since been demolished. The provision of accommodation for nurses, typically known as a nurses' home, was frequently included as a part of hospital facilities in South Australia in the late nineteenth century and up until the latter decades of the twentieth century. In the latter decades of the twentieth century, nurses' homes became increasingly obsolete and many have been either repurposed or demolished.

Initially, existing houses were acquired for nurses' accommodation, and it wasn't until the early twentieth century that purpose-built accommodation was constructed. The first bespoke nurses' accommodation built in South Australia is the Margaret Graham Nurses Home (SHP 13093), which opened in 1911 at the former Royal Adelaide Hospital.¹

There are two State Heritage Places and two Local Heritage Places that were once nurses' homes, namely:

- Margaret Graham Nurses Home, Royal Adelaide Hospital, now Lot 14 North Terrace, Adelaide, opened 1911 (listed 1986) (SHP 13093). Also identified as a part of the Royal Adelaide Hospital (SHP 26413).
- Ayers House, North Terrace Adelaide, constructed c.1948-1875-1876, while not listed for its associations with nurses' accommodation it was used as such under the name Austral House from 1933-1949 (SHP10849).
- Former Nurses Home, Women's and Childrens Hospital, 79 King William Street (LHP).
- Mareeba (Babies Hospital) and former Nurses Home, 1917-1960, 19-21 Belmore Terrace Woodville (LHP).

A selection of unlisted nurses' homes in South Australia includes:

- Eleanor Harrald building (Lot 14), 1951-1954, was built as additional nurses' accommodation for the Royal Adelaide Hospital, now a part of the Lot 14 facilities.
- Mount Gambier Hospital Nurses Home, Hospital Drive opened 1958, now accommodation.
- Penola War Memorial Hospital Nurses Quarters, Church Street, Penola opened 1956, additions 1963, appears to have been incorporated into the hospital.
- Modbury Hospital Nurses' Home, Reservoir Road, Modbury, 1973, now Torrens Valley International Residence.

Julia Farr (1824-1914)

Julia Farr (nee Ord), was born 14 August 1824 in Essex, UK, and married Reverend George Henry Farr in February 1846. In 1854, the Farr's migrated to South Australia after George was appointed as the headmaster for St Peter's College, the position sought in response to the need for Julia to live in a dry climate for health reasons. At St Peter's,

Julia worked in an unpaid capacity as the matron for the boarding students for five years, as well as supervising the dairy and hens and teaching Sunday School classes. In addition to her work at St Peter's, Julia also raised six children and was engaged in a variety of philanthropic initiatives throughout her life.²

In 1860, Julia's concerns over the plight of the girls in the Destitute Asylum (SHP 10854, SHP 12167, SHP 13665 and SHP 13666), which commenced operating by 1856, led her with other like-minded women to form a committee to establish a home where 'girls' could live and learn employable skills. The Orphan Home began operating in 1860 from a house in Stepney before a building in Carrington Street, Adelaide was secured in 1861. In 1908, due to concerns over the dilapidated condition of the Carrington Street building, the Orphan Home was relocated to 588 Fullarton Road, Upper Mitcham, in what had been the home of O'Halloran Giles. Renamed Farr House in 1935 after Julia, the institution closed in 1982 and has since been demolished.

There are a number of State and Local Heritage Places that have an association with Julia Farr that is not recognised through their heritage listing, including:

- Old School House, St Peter's College, Hackney Road, Hackney (SHP 10540).
- St Peter's College – Big Quad Precinct, Hackney Road, Hackney (SHP 26457).
- Main North Road Church of England Cemetery, Cemetery Avenue, Nailsworth, Julia Farr is buried at this cemetery (SHP 14138).
- St Luke's Anglican Church, 21-29 Whitmore Square, Adelaide, Julia's husband Archdeacon Farr was priest at St Luke's from 1884 until 1896 (SHP 13598).
- St Luke's Rectory, 31-39 Whitmore Square, Adelaide (LHP).

Dr William Gosse (1812-1883)

William and Agnes Gosse along with their 6 children (4 sons and 2 daughters) migrated to South Australia in 1850 in hope of curing William's bronchitis. William was a medical doctor and after a short period of time on the Victorian gold diggings returned to South Australia where he went into partnership with Dr Benjamin Archer Kent. During his life he entered practice with several different doctors, including his son Charles, while also holding a number of government appointments.

In 1853, Gosse was appointed colonial surgeon and was responsible for supervising the Adelaide Hospital, the Lunatic Asylum and Adelaide Gaol. Gosse was later appointed honorary, then visiting surgeon at the Adelaide Hospital after it was placed under a Board of Management. He served 15 years as a Governor of the South Australian Institute representing subscribers. He was a warden of the senate at Adelaide University and was an active member of the Church of England Synod and worshipped at Holy Trinity (SHP 13357) and then at Kent Town. After the relocation of the Lunatic Asylum to Parkside he became a visitor there. He was also the president of the South Australian Medical Society and had a 20-year association with the Australian Mutual Providential Society. Gosse died on 20 July 1883.

In 1878, Dr William Gosse with Julia Farr and others was involved in the establishment of the Home for Incurables, with Gosse becoming the first chair of the committee that

founded the Home (since demolished), later known as the Julia Farr Centre, which opened in October 1879. While none are specifically listed due to their association with Dr William Gosse, there are several State Heritage Places that Gosse has an association with, and which demonstrate the different aspects of his work and life, including:

- Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 87 North Terrace, from 1839 (SHP 13357)
- 10 State Heritage Places encapsulating different elements of the Glenside Hospital (Former Parkside Lunatic Asylum), SHP 10529, SHP 16185, SHP 16186, SHP 16187, SHP 16188, SHP 19189, SHP 16190, SHP 25254, SHP 26279 and SHP 26289.
- Former Institute Building, North Terrace, from 1860 (SHP 10846)
- Mitchell Building, University of Adelaide, North Terrace, 1881 (SHP 10879)
- North Road Church of England Cemetery, including Chapel, Cemetery Avenue, Nailsworth, William Gosse is buried at the cemetery (SHP 14138).

James Irwin (1908-1990)

Sir James Campbell Irwin, born 1908, was a South Australian architect and long-standing partner of architectural firm Woods, Bagot Laybourne Smith and Irwin. Commencing as a draughtsman at Woods Bagot in 1927, he was made a partner in 1930, then senior partner in 1965 before retiring in 1974. He also served several terms as a councillor, then alderman for the City of Adelaide and was Lord Mayor 1963-1966. In addition to his professional architectural commitments, Irwin was also very community-minded, serving on the Cottage Homes Committee 1935-1975 and similarly on the Home for Incurables Committee 1935-1981, including as its Chair/President 1967-1981. He was knighted in 1971.

Attribution for the buildings designed by Woods Bagot Laybourne Smith and Irwin for the Home is to the practice and no one single architect. However, given Irwin's membership of the Homes' Buildings and Grounds Committee and his role as senior partner at the practice it is highly likely that he would have had considerable oversight and input into the designs.

There are a number of buildings entered in the South Australian Heritage Register that were designed by Woods Bagot Laybourne Smith and Irwin, however, those buildings were primarily designed and constructed before the Second World War. While further research is required to determine the impact of Woods Bagot Laybourne Smith and Irwin (later Woods Bagot), as an architectural practice in the second half of the twentieth century, and Irwin in particular, there are many buildings designed by Irwin that still exist demonstrating his long and diverse career as an architect. Some include:

- Dwelling - Carrick Hill, 46 Carrick Hill Drive, Springfield, 1937, house designed for Edward and Ursula Heyward, (SHP 11509),
- Advertiser Building, Waymouth Street, Adelaide, 1957 (demolished),
- Da Costa Building, Grenfell Street, Adelaide,
- Building Centre, 47 South Terrace Adelaide, office building for the Master Builders Association, 1958,

- St Mark's College, Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide,
- General Motors Holden, Woodville and Elizabeth,
- Bagot's Trustee Building,
- Bennet and Fisher, Currie Street,
- Dalgety Building, Currie Street and Topham Mall, c.1964, more recently entirely reclad,
- City Mutual Building, North Terrace,
- CBC Bank, North Terrace,
- ANZ Bank, North Terrace,
- Adelaide Children's Hospital.

Architectural Style

The only remaining building at Highgate Park possessing any architectural merit of note is the 11-storey East Block, which while not a genuine example of the Late Twentieth Century Brutalist style, possesses some materials indicative of the style.

The Administration Building (known as the roundhouse) conceptually draws on Late Twentieth Century Post-Modernism by including an 'ironic twist'³ that changes the context of a roundhouse used by steam locomotives into an administration building. Regardless, architecturally it is a nondescript brick structure.

The Chapel was built as a light-weight kiosk and has been built-in and then later modified to become a chapel. While it has some interesting forms, when compared to other chapels, it cannot be considered to be an outstanding example of post-war ecclesiastical architecture.⁴ The modifications to it also mean it no longer demonstrates the form of the kiosk it once was.

The Nurses' Home (now known as the Gosse Building), built in the early 1950s, takes its stylistic cues from Georgian Revival styles popular before the Second World War. According to Apperley, *et al.* it could be considered to be an example of Post-War American Colonial, which was prevalent between c.1940-c.1960, and draws on examples of Georgian influenced American colonial buildings popularised in Australia through film.⁵ A far better resolved and representative example of Post-War American Colonial style building is the office building Kenneth Milne designed for HC Sleight at 230 Pirie Street, in the 1950s.



Knapman House, designed for HC Sleight by Ken Milne, in the 1950s.

Source: SLISA 1970

Late twentieth Century Brutalist

Brutalism or Brutalist architecture in Australia is described by Apperley *et al.* as 'Late Twentieth Century Brutalist' and as a style emerged in Australia in the 1960s. Although buildings in the style were constructed into the 1980s, it was most popular in the 1970s. While some view Brutalism as only heavy blocky structures made from exposed concrete and brick, British architects Alison and Peter Smithson, who were leading proponents, also developed an 'intellectual framework' for the style that included an 'ethical approach', intended to 'describe an architecture of more rigour, of more social commitment, and of more effective engagement with, the most progressive international tendencies.'⁶

According to O'Sullivan, architects designing in the brutalist style 'sought to express robustly the integrated structural, functional and social programmes of a building and its site.'⁷ Key South Australian architects and practices designing brutalist buildings were Adrian Evans and Kevin Hocking (Public Buildings Department); Cheesman, Doley, Neighbour and Raffin; Brian Polomka at Berry, Polomka, Riches and Gilbert; and, Dimitri Kazanski at Woodhead Hall McDonald Shaw.

Key attributes of Late Twentieth Century Brutalist architecture include:

- Strong shapes, boldly composed and expressed,
- Expressed reinforced concrete structure,
- Aggressive largeness of scale,
- Diagonal, sloping or strong curved elements contrasting with horizontal and/or vertical elements,
- Hefty, chunky, blocky character,
- Extroverted displays of services,
- Fortress-like character,

- Large areas of unbroken wall surface,
- Textured surface finishes.

Materials

- Off-form reinforced concrete, with carefully contrived imprints from the form,
- Reinforced concrete in frame or panel construction,
- Clinker brick.⁸

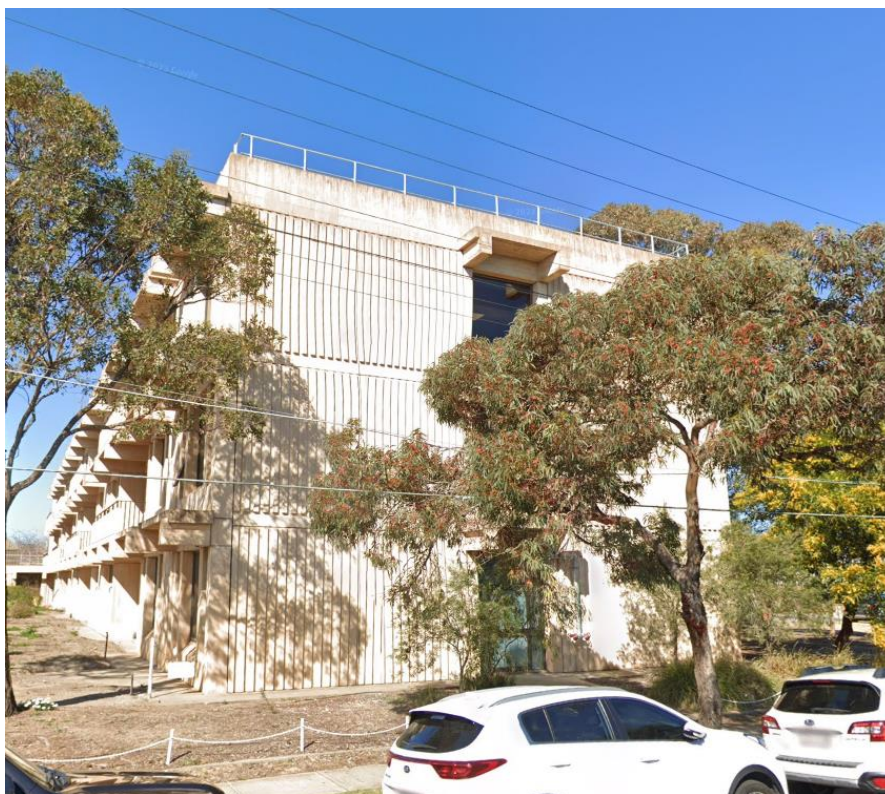
Examples of Late Twentieth Century Brutalist Architecture include:

- Highways Department, Walkerville, Cheesman, Doley, Brabham and Neighbour, 1959-1962, 1967-1968.
- Social Sciences Building, Flinders University, Cheesman, Doley Neighbour and Raffan, 1969.
- Australian Mineral Foundation, Conyngham Street, Glenside, Antanas Lapsys at Cheesman, Doley, Neighbour and Raffan, 1972.
- Western Hospital, Cudmore Terrace, Henley Beach, 1974.
- Noarlunga Civic Centre, Beach Road, Cheesman, Doley, Neighbour and Raffan, 1976.
- Regency Park Community College, Regency Road, Regency Park, Cheesman, Doley, Neighbour and Raffan 1976.
- Motor Registration Centre Building, Gawler and Wakefield Streets, Adrian Evans at Public Buildings Department, 1977.
- Forensic Sciences Building, Divett Place, Kevin Hocking at Public Buildings Department, 1978.
- Education Department Building, Flinders Street, Adelaide Dimitri Kazanski at Woodhead Hall McDonald Shaw, 1979.
- Public Buildings Department Building, Wakefield Street, Brian Polomka at Berry, Polomka, Riches and Gilbert, 1979.



Former Australian Mineral Science Building, Glenside

Source: Modernist Adelaide Facebook



Western Hospital, Henley Beach

Source: Google Maps

**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.

Highgate Park is associated with the historic themes Building Settlements, Towns and Cities and its subtheme Living on the fringes (including homelessness); and Developing Social and Cultural Life and its subtheme Providing health and welfare services. From 1879 to 2020, Highgate Park, previously known as the Home for Incurables (1879-1981), Julia Farr Centre (1981-1994), and Julia Farr Services (1994-2006), was an institution that provided residential care for people living with a disability. Originally established to provide a home for people who had limited means and struggled to live

independently with diseases or disabilities that were at that time considered 'incurable', since the early 1980s its focus had been on providing treatment and rehabilitation to enable people to return to independent living.

In the 1960s, a radical shift commenced in the method and approach to caring for people living with a disability that fundamentally changed where people lived and how they were supported. Increasingly, people living with a disability were supported in community-oriented care rather than large institutional settings. This included differently-sized group-home settings and, where possible, providing rehabilitation and support to enable people to return to their own homes. While deinstitutionalisation was not immediate, it changed the approach to care and support of people living with a disability and was at that time, recognised as best-practice.

East Block, built in 1976 and resulting in the demolition of the original buildings at the Home, was the main residence and place for treatment and rehabilitation for people living with a disability at Highgate Park. It was designed as a ward block, utilising Modern hospital principles including the racetrack layout and single, double and four-person wards to provide residential care. However, East Block lacks many of the medical facilities of a hospital and consequently is not considered to be a good example of Modern hospital design. Rather it is places such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Modbury Hospital that better demonstrate those design ideas. Equally, by the mid-1970s, the creation of new institutional care settings was out-dated and not aligned with up-to-date practices, which preferred pursuing community-based options.

Consequently, East Block does not demonstrate important aspects or an evolution of the State's history with regard to supporting people living on the fringes in institutional care or the provision of health and welfare services. At the time it was built it, Highgate Park did not implement the new community model for providing accommodation and care to support people living with a disability. Instead, it replicated past institutional practices, albeit in a more considered manner than in the past.

The three other buildings remaining at Highgate Park that were once a part of the much larger complex are the Gosse Building (Nurses' Quarters 1951), Chapel (originally kiosk, 1955) and Roundhouse (Administration Building 1967). These structures supported the operation of the Home including the original complex of buildings built for the Home and the later constructed Rotary Building (demolished), South Block (demolished) and Fisher Building (demolished). Had these buildings still existed, they may have been considered to demonstrate an important aspect of the state's history. However, in and of itself, the remaining grouping of ancillary buildings are insufficient to demonstrate the broader associations of the site as a place that provided institutional care to people living with a disability.

The Gosse Building is one of many nurses' homes built in South Australia to provide onsite accommodation for nurses working at hospitals and at other institutions providing medical services. The first purpose-built nurses' home is the Margaret Graham Nurses Home (SHP 13093) constructed in 1911, at the Royal Adelaide Hospital,

now Lot 14. As one of many nurses' homes built in South Australia (see Comparability, Rarity and Representation), the Gosse building is not considered to demonstrate the pattern or evolution of South Australia's history at the state level but is rather one of many such places.

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.

Highgate Park is an institutional facility that provided residential care for people living with a disability. Begun in 1879 as a charitable organisation, the Home forms a part of South Australia's long history of philanthropic and charitable organisations, initiated by concerned individuals to provide services and care for people living with a disability, for example Townsend House (SHP 10546) and the Angas Home (SHP 10654) (see Comparability, Representation, Rarity).

Many of these institutions, begun in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, continue to operate in the twenty first century, modifying care practices in keeping with new methods to provide best-practice care and services, for example the Royal Society for the Blind and Deaf Can:Do. There are several State Heritage Places that represent care methods for people living with a disability in South Australia (see Compatibility, Rarity, Representation) and new facilities continue to be built. Consequently, the places associated with the care of people living with a disability are not considered to be rare, uncommon, or endangered.

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.

Highgate Park is an institution that commenced operating in 1879 in a pre-existing cottage on Fisher Street, Fullarton, on an allotment that was largely unbuilt on. Since then, the site has been the subject of on-going building activity to provide accommodation and facilities for people living with a disability, including necessitating the removal of earlier built structures, notably the demolition of the original Home to enable the construction of the East Block with its expansive and deep basement to house plant to service the whole complex, as well as a substantial commercial kitchen, laundry, mortuary, workshop, etc.

The history of the Home, later Julia Farr Centre, then Julia Farr Services and finally Highgate Park, is very well documented through many sources including publications, archival records, photographs, newspapers, architectural drawing, etc. Consequently, the place is highly unlikely to yield any information about Highgate Park and its 141-year history that will contribute meaningfully to the State's history that is not already available through a variety of other means.

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.

Highgate Park belongs to the class of place known as Institutional Residential Care for people living with a disability. While Highgate Park retains many of the principal characteristics of the class of place (Institutional Residential Care), including accommodation and facilities to care for people living with a disability, administration, religious facilities, nurses' accommodation and landscaped grounds such as gardens, lawns and covered walkways, Highgate Park in its current form is not considered to be sufficiently intact or to retain sufficient integrity to be of cultural significance to South Australia.

While the East Block and the Roundhouse are a well-considered ward-based institutional residential care facility and administration block, the two buildings were built at a time when there had been a fundamental change in the way care and support was provided to people living with a disability. Institutional care of the type provided at Highgate Park in the late 1970s had been challenged and new best-practice models based on deinstitutionalisation, including smaller community-based care options, were being implemented from the 1960s. Consequently, Highgate Park as it was reconceptualised in the late 1960s and 1970s is more closely associated with late nineteenth and early twentieth century institutional care, albeit with updated practices and facilities, and hence is not considered to be of cultural significance to South Australia.

The other ancillary buildings remaining on site, namely the Gosse Building (former Nurses' Home) and chapel (formerly the kiosk), are associated with the earlier institutional care methods offered by the Home and were constructed at a time when those methods would still be considered to be culturally significant. However, a nurses' home and kiosk are not sufficient aspects of the principal characteristics of the class of place to be able to represent the class to an outstanding degree. It is for these reasons that Highgate Park is not considered to be an outstanding class of place.

It is recommended that the nominated place **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.

East Block is the only building remaining at Highgate Park that has architectural qualities at a level to be considered under criterion (e). East Block is a Modern hospital ward block which also displays some Brutalist elements through the materials used in its construction. East Block is an 11-storey building comprising a structure formed from concrete slabs supported with reinforced concrete columns. Steel framing to window and door openings also provides some structural integrity.

While the building does subtly express the use of reinforced concrete in its external columns, and incorporates textural finishes, notably in the exposed aggregate in the concrete panels to balconies, off-form texture to external columns and the use of

clinker bricks, the building does not otherwise demonstrate Brutalist design. It is a simple rectilinear form, that is not hefty or chunky with extroverted displays of services. Nor does it have strongly contrasting elements or a fortress-like character. The wall surfaces are also not composed from large unbroken expanses, rather it expresses a balanced mixture of clinker brick, expanses of framed glazing to windows and doors and concrete elements to balconies. In comparison to outstanding Brutalist architecture in South Australia, such as the former Australian Mineral Foundation building, Western Hospital and Forensic Sciences building (see Comparability, Representation, Rarity), East Block is not considered to be an outstanding example of Late twentieth Century Brutalist architecture.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** 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.

Highgate Park is associated with the group of people who once lived or worked there, whether it be temporarily or as a long-term resident receiving treatment and rehabilitation for existing and/or acquired disabilities, or in the nurses' homes and for residents' families and friends. While Highgate Park may hold positive memories for some, equally it is a place of discomfort and in some cases harm for others. Although negative connections with a place do not preclude a community from have a strong association with the place, Reference Tool 2 notes that the associations need to be important to the group or community's sense of identity as well as its practices, expressions and representations.

Extensive community engagement (in this case the community being the one most associated with the place, namely past residents and their family and friends) demonstrates that the experience and memories of Highgate Park are very mixed and that for a number of people who would be considered to be a part of the community or group associated with Highgate Park, the place is not one that defines their sense of identity or represents them. Similarly, as new approaches have been implemented to provide a 'person-centred planning model' to create a 'good life' for people with a disability, connections with Highgate Park are diminished as associations are transferred to several places.

A second group with an attachment to the site is the group of students living or who have lived in the Gosse Building during its life as the Gosse International Student

Residence, from 1997. This group is not one that would resonate with the broader South Australian community but rather is a smaller subset of the group that would, which is International Students. International students studying in South Australia have associations with many places in South Australia, but most notably the University they are studying at and other residential colleges. Any attachment that individuals may have to the Gosse building would also not be considered to be enduring as most students reside at Gosse for only a few years while studying abroad.

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.

Highgate Park is associated with many individuals who spent many years working to fund and run the Home. However, of those individuals, those considered to possibly have a special association are the founders of the Home, Julia Farr and Dr William Gosse, and architect James Irwin who had oversight of the institution's redevelopment in the second half of the twentieth century. Highgate Park as an organisation is also considered under this criterion.

Julie Farr is acknowledged as originating the idea for a Home as she wished to see a place where people without financial means, who were living with an incurable disease or disability, could live, for the remainder of their life, if necessary, with greater levels of care than was available at the Destitute Asylum. The Home for Incurables was the second such initiative by Farr, as she previously, with others, established the Orphan Home (1860) as a place for girls to live rather than in the Destitute Asylum.

Farr also contributed work in an unpaid capacity in association with her husband's work as Headmaster at St Peter's College (See Comparability, Rarity, Representation), acting as matron to the boarders for 5 years, tending to the school dairy and hens, teaching Sunday School, and raising the couple's six children. While Farr remained

involved with the Home from its inception in 1878, and establishment in 1879, until her death in 1914, nothing of the Institution she helped to create remains on site, having been demolished to make way for new buildings. The concept and rationale of the Home has also changed greatly since Farr's involvement. The Home was focused on providing a place for people with 'incurable diseases' to live in dignity until dying, while the Julia Farr Centre, then Julia Farr Services and now Highgate Park, have focused on treatment and rehabilitation to enable people to return to their normal lives. There are also several other places where Julia Farr lived and worked, albeit in a voluntary capacity, that are State Heritage Places (see Comparability, Representation and Rarity). It is for these reasons that Highgate Park is not considered to have a special association with Julia Farr.

Dr William Gosse assisted Farr in the establishment of the home in 1879 and then provided medical advice and services until his death in 1883. Dr Gosse migrated to South Australia in 1850 and was appointed Colonial Surgeon in 1853 and was responsible for the oversight of the Adelaide Hospital, Lunatic Asylum and Adelaide Gaol. He was also heavily involved with the Church of England, the University of Adelaide and the South Australian Institute. Given that Dr Gosse died within four years of the establishment of the Home and that nothing remains of the Home he helped to create, Highgate Park is not considered to have a special association with him. There are several State Heritage Places entered in the Register (see Comparability, Rarity, Representation) that better demonstrate the work of Dr Gosse and his contribution to South Australia.

James Campbell Irwin had a long career as an architect in South Australia becoming a partner in Woods Bagot Laybourne Smith and Irwin in 1930 and then senior partner in 1965, before retiring in 1974. Consequently, he has designed many buildings in South Australia and had design oversight for many more (see Comparability, Rarity, Representation). Irwin was also very civic-minded serving on several committees for different organisations, including the Home for Incurables 1935-1981 and was elected as a Councillor, then Alderman and finally Lord Mayor 1963-1966 of the City of Adelaide.

While Irwin served on the Management Committee and Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Home underwent a total transformation with construction of new buildings resulting in the demolition of all original structures and reorganisation of the grounds. Four new residential hospital wings were built, namely the Rotary and Fisher Buildings (both demolished), South Block (demolished) and East Block (subject of this assessment) and several ancillary buildings namely two nurses' homes Gosse (subject of this assessment) and Ringwood (demolished), administration building (Roundhouse) (subject of this assessment) and a kiosk (converted to the chapel) (subject of this assessment).

Woods Bagot Laybourne Smith and Irwin did design a number of the new buildings for the Home, notably Fisher (now demolished) and East Block (subject of this assessment). While Irwin likely had design oversight of East Block, his name does not

appear on any of the architectural drawings for the building, meaning that while he may have contributed to its design it cannot be attributed to him but rather only the practice. Further, even if it could be proved that Irwin was solely responsible for the layout of the institution and design of its other buildings, the demolition of most of the buildings at Highgate Park means that the site no longer retains sufficient intactness and integrity to demonstrate a special association with Irwin.

The Home for Incurables, established in 1879, was at the forefront of providing care and accommodation in South Australia for people living with a disease and/or disability then considered to be 'incurable'. Given its early and important role in the disability care sector, the Home is considered likely to be an organisation of historical importance to South Australia. However, the elements of the Home that are associated with the critical foundational history of the organisation were demolished in the 1970s to enable the construction of East Block. The remaining structures do not demonstrate this important association with the Home having been constructed between 1951 and 1976.

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

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Highgate Park is a 2.845-hectare site comprising four main buildings, namely East Block, Gosse Building, Chapel and Roundhouse; ancillary structures including an aviary, shadehouse, concrete-blockwork structure now used by a model train society and covered walkways linking the main buildings; and landscaped grounds including lawns, specimen trees and some small garden areas.

Administration Building (Roundhouse)

The Administration Building is a sixteen-sided salmon-coloured brick building with a copper roof, painted-timber-framed doors and windows and painted timber facings to eaves and eave soffits. It also features a wedge-shaped addition, connected to the main structure. Built as office spaces, the building features built-in timber cabinetry including cupboards, shelving and desks. The reception area features a timber-reception desk with brick planter (now covered), and red vinyl covered bench seating along the wall.

Chapel (former Kiosk)

The Chapel is an elongated hexagonal-shaped structure, with a low-pitched, Trimdek metal sheeting-clad roof. Tubular steel columns support the roof. The building features small sections of painted concrete blockwork to the north, east and west, with large expanses of painted, timber-framed glazing; to the north the glazing features large, fixed panes of glass, while to the east and west, the glazing features large central fixed panes with hopper windows above and below and painted, timber-framed glass doors. The southern elevation is enclosed with painted concrete-blockwork, punctuated with narrow openings for doors and windows. Timber posts with metal

rods inserted at regular intervals, supporting plants, further encloses the space on its eastern and western elevations.

The interior volume is primarily open as a worship space with a raised carpeted platform to the north, and two rooms to the south, one with built-in cupboards, the other featuring a small kitchen. The ceiling in the worship space is timber-lined, extending outside to the eaves while acoustic panels form the ceilings to the rooms to the south. The floors are covered in linoleum; in the worship space white linoleum is inset with blue linoleum creating a cross. The linoleum in the two rooms is brown.

Gosse Building

The Gosse Building is a red-brick, terra cotta tile-clad, hipped roof, elongated U-shaped building in a very simplified Georgian Revival style that might also be described as an example of Post-War American Colonial style. It features painted, timber-framed sash windows at regular intervals, a row of brick laid in relief, creating a string course underneath the first-floor windows; and verandas integrated under the main roof structure to northern and eastern elevations. There are several entrance doors. A number of single bedrooms are arranged off of spacious corridors, with communal bathrooms and kitchens and a number of recreation rooms.

East Block

East Block is an 11-storey (including basement) rectangular tower block, with central service core and features cantilever balconies that encircle floors 1-9. The structure comprises reinforced columns, with concrete floors and a steel truss roof with precast concrete fascia panel and moulded asbestos parapet fascia above. The building is enclosed with clinker brick and solar bronze anti-glare glazing (doors and windows), framed with Lysaght Zincanneal steel that forms a part of the building's structural integrity and is capped with aluminium. There is a pergola to the first floor 'roof' garden with steel posts and timber framing and a precast concrete pergola structure with treated pine to cafeteria (ground floor).

Other features of the building include:

- Timber marked, off-form finish to external columns (concrete),
- Concrete slab floors, with concrete drop panel at column junctions,
- Balconies have monolithic concrete finish to floors, Hardiflex asbestos soffit linings to ceilings, precast aggregate panels with deep scoring to expose the aggregate, and smooth finished precast concrete balusters and railings,
- Plant on roof is enclosed in clinker brick structure,
- Precast concrete planters, rectangular and round,
- Concrete pathway encircling the building, with adjacent red masonry paving adjoining,

Internally, East Block has been organised as a 'ward hospital block' with services such as plant, commercial kitchen, workshop, mortuary, etc. located in the basement; reception, cafeteria, kiosk, store and linen room to ground floor, staff facilities,

hairdressing, ancillary medical on the first floor, wards with associated nurses' stations, recreation rooms, bathrooms, medical, etc on floors 2-9.

Nurses' stations and other facilities are located to the centre of each floor, with an encircling corridor ('racetrack') separating the service areas from the single, 2-bed, and 4-bed wards and recreation rooms located towards the edge of the floor. Each room has direct access to the encircling balcony. A typical room is spatially divided into two areas, with the beds positioned towards the windows and facing each other, and a space adjacent to the corridor containing a wardrobe and draw unit and a shelf for each resident of the room with a communal basin located next to the door. The rooms have linoleum covered floors and suspended acoustic tile ceilings.

Grounds

The grounds consist of large expanses of lawn, extensive carparking to Fisher and Highgate Streets, specimen trees and garden beds set around the Chapel and Roundhouse, the property boundary with Concordia College (South), street frontages and part East Block. There is an extensive covered walkway linking East Block and the Chapel.

HISTORY

Charitable Organisations in South Australia

South Australia has a long history of philanthropic and charitable organisations being established to assist people in need of support, *The Cyclopedia of South Australia* notes that South Australia 'owes its existence to a movement which had its origins in philanthropy'.⁹ The first organisation formed to assist vulnerable South Australians was the Adelaide Benevolent and Strangers' Friend Society, established in 1849, to assist the poor. In the nineteenth century, a number of organisations were formed, some by the government, such as the Destitute Asylum, but most were community-derived, with the aim of assisting people in dire economic circumstances, or those with a variety of ailments and/or disabilities and/or medical needs. There were dozens of philanthropic organisations and institutions in the nineteenth century. An example of some that provided assistance to people with ailments and/or disabilities and/or medical needs include:

- Kalyra Sanatorium, 1894-1988, Gloucester Avenue Belair, home for people with tuberculosis,¹⁰
- Estcourt House, 1894-1978, Military Road, Tennyson, home for children and elderly with disabilities, later a convalescent home for children,¹¹
- Minda, 1898- , King George Avenue, Brighton, home for children with intellectual disabilities; Minda currently provides a range of services and support facilities for people living with an intellectual disability,¹²
- South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, 1874-1946, King George Avenue, Brighton, a home for children,¹³
- Queen's Home later Queen Victoria Hospital, 1902-1989, Fullarton Road, Rose Park, maternity services,¹⁴

- Industrial School for the Blind/Institute for the Blind later Royal Society for the Blind, 1884- , North Adelaide, and many other locations, began as a means to provide adults without sight employment opportunities,¹⁵
- The Childrens' Hospital, later Women's and Children's Hospital, 1876 -
- South Australian Deaf and Dumb Mission, now Deaf Can:Do, 1891 – various locations, services and facilities for hearing impaired and deaf people,¹⁶
- Angas Home and Farm, 1899-1979, Parafield, a home for deaf people where they could also find work on the associated farm.¹⁷

Nationally, in the 1960s institutional care approaches were challenged in response to the emerging rights movements, including disability rights and new ways of thinking about how people with a disability should be cared for, namely 'that people with a disability should have opportunities as close as possible to those enjoyed by people without a disability'.¹⁸ At that time, there were also broader reforms resulting in a government shift away from segregated services, advances in medicine, and evidence of harm and 'restriction of individual freedoms' in institutional settings that also drove the need for change.

The change in care approach became known as deinstitutionalisation and sought to move people from institutions to community-based care. The shift to community-based care grew rapidly in the 1980s, following in the wake of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Disabled Person in 1975 followed by the Year of Disabled People in 1981. This was in turn followed by the Commonwealth government's 'Federal Handicapped Programs Review', with the report delivered in 1985 leading to the *Disability Services Act 1986* (Commonwealth) and later other State based legislation, including *Disability Services Act 1993* in South Australia.¹⁹

From the 1990s, community-based care came to be known as supported living, however, funding issues resulted in a large unmet need and long waiting times for assistance.²⁰ In some instances this also led to institutional-type care in smaller home settings under the rationale of 'economies of scale' rather than meeting individual care needs.²¹ The introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), implemented in stages from 2013, has attempted to resolve funding issues, although many still exist. The present approach to providing services and facilities is based on the person-centred planning model, which 'shares power and works towards community inclusion'. The aim being to provide a 'good life for people with a disability'.²²

The Home for Incurables

In 1878, Julia Farr proposed the idea of establishing a home for people considered to have 'incurable' diseases and/or disabilities and who were unable to care for themselves or to be cared for by family at home. People experiencing such a situation often ended up at the Destitute Asylum, where care for their needs was inadequate. Julia Farr was already well acquainted with the conditions at the Destitute Asylum and the inability of the institution to appropriately care for some of its residents. In 1860, with others, she had established the Orphan Home to provide a more suitable care

arrangement for orphaned girls who had previously been living at the Destitute Asylum.

With the support of Dr William Gosse, Hon. Alexander Hay MLC and George Hawkes, a provisional committee of 28 like-minded people was established with the goal of securing £1,000 through subscriptions to establish a Home for Incurables. Once the goal was achieved, a meeting of subscribers would be called to form a permanent committee, which would have authority to act to create the Home.²³ The sum was quickly raised and on 30 January 1879 a meeting was held to create a permanent committee (hereafter referred to as the Management Committee). Membership of the Management Committee was largely the same as the provisional committee. Various sub-committees were also formed, each covering a specific area of expertise, such as the Building and Medical Committees. Joining Drs Gosse, Gardner and Wylde on the Management Committee were Drs Corbin and Ellison. The Management Committee became an incorporated body in October 1879.

9 acres, containing an 8-roomed building, was purchased at Fullarton in 1879 by Gosse, Hawkes and Alexander Macgeorge for £1,700 for the Home.²⁴ A further £310 was spent on alterations. Admission was determined by application, with applicants having to provide a medical certificate that identified the reason admission was sought, the Medical Committee taking responsibility with a Special Committee to determine who received a place. The first 10 residents arrived on 17 October 1879.²⁵ The first matron was Miss Eppelein.²⁶

Additional accommodation was almost immediately required as applications exceeded the number of beds available and the Management Committee, rather than further enlarge the house on site, decided to construct an additional building. Subscriptions in the first year of operation raised over £1,000 with donations from Joanna Barr Smith and Mrs EA Andrews specifically for a building also amounting to £1,000. Architect James Cumming prepared plans for the new structure, which was built in stages.²⁷ Lady Jervois laid the foundation stone for the central section of the new Home on 22 September 1880 and the structure was completed in February 1881. It provided beds for 30 residents, and rooms for the matron, 2 nurses and a board room. By the end of 1881, between the two structures, accommodation was provided for 44 residents.²⁸

While there were some financial difficulties during the first decade of operations, the increased number of residents led to the appointment of a paid medical officer, in addition to the Matron and nursing staff. Dr TW Corbin was appointed to the position in 1882, attending the Home one day a week on salary, with additional payments for any other days he was needed to attend. In 1883, Miss MA Cox became Matron. In that same year Dr Gosse died. Dr RT Wylde replaced Gosse on the Management Committee, and the Management Committee also called for subscriptions in Gosse's name to build the next stage of the building, known as the North Wing. Architects Cummins and Davies were engaged to oversee its completion. The North Wing, providing an additional 40 beds was opened by Dr Gosse's son Dr Charles Gosse in

October 1884, however strained financial circumstances meant that only 24 beds could be occupied immediately. By June 1885, there were 62 residents at the Home supported by 12 staff.²⁹

The Home received sizable bequests in 1887, including £875 from Mr Harford and £2,000 from Mr HL Vosz. Bequests such as these were vital to the continuation of the Home. JH Angas was a notable benefactor, donating his salary from the Legislative Council as well as at least an additional £3,000. The Angas Wing, opened in 1892, was built in his honour. AJ Murray designed the Angas Wing, while construction was supervised by Alfred Wells and the builder was W Rogers. Containing 12 wards and a sitting room, the Angas Wing provided accommodation for 62 residents and 12 staff. In total the Home could accommodate 105 residents plus staff.³⁰

In 1899, the value of the Home was calculated as £16,552 including property and capital, however the new century would bring a reduction in revenue. This led to the government paying an annual subsidy of £1,000 to the Home as well as making other contributions. Over the years the government's annual subsidy would continue to increase both due to increasing costs of caring for each resident but also due to increased numbers of residents at the Home.³¹ Further accommodation was built for staff in 1913, including 4 bedrooms for nurses and quarters for wardsmen, as well as a new laundry and renovations to the drying and ironing rooms. A sizable bequest by Michael McNally amounting to £6,300 enabled the construction of McNally Hall, opened November 1916 and other works including the construction of 18 single rooms.³²

Reporting on the opening of McNally Hall, *The Register* newspaper recorded the Home's financial position as thus:

... during the 38 years of the Home's existence the total expenditure had amounted to £112,000. The land and buildings had cost £25,000. Government grants had assisted to the extent of £37,550, and subscriptions and donations excluding bequests, aggregated £16,000. The annual upkeep averaged about £4,500. During the past six years about £11,000 had been spent on improvements.³³

Some of those improvements included purchasing an additional 5.5 acres of land, the installation of electric lights and attempts to secure water through bores, which was largely unsuccessful but did not prevent the laying out of a garden including lawns and rose gardens.³⁴

In 1918, Sister DM Millhouse became Matron, a position she would hold for 26 years. Long-serving medical officer, Dr Corbin also died that year and was replaced by his two sons Dr J and Dr C Corbin. In the 1920s, obtaining sufficient nursing staff to run the Home became increasingly problematic. Patroness, Lady Bridges is credited with proposing that the Home be registered as a part time nurses' training school. By becoming a training school, the work probationary nurses undertook at the Home was credited towards their training and eventual qualification. Registration was achieved by 1925.³⁵ Ward accommodation for 10 additional women residents was completed

in 1925 and work commenced on quarters for maids consisting of 10 single bedrooms, a sitting room and bathroom. Modern ironing and drying rooms were also added to the steam laundry.³⁶

The Home achieved its Jubilee in 1929, however, while celebrations appear to have been minimal, the Home was able to report that 'all buildings are now complete to the original plan'.³⁷ The Depression and the decade that followed were financially difficult times with the Home operating at a loss for several years. It was only the use of financial reserves that enabled the Home to continue. In essence, the Management Committee had used bequests to fund the reserve and building works, while public subscriptions and donations, the government subsidy and Commonwealth pensions paid to the residents covered operating costs. In the 1930s, operating costs continued to increase while public subscriptions and donations reduced, and the full amount of the government subsidiary was not always forthcoming.³⁸



Aerial of the Home taken in 1937, showing the extent of building and the landscaped grounds

Source: SLISA B71523

More positively, the Home entered *The Mail* home garden competition throughout the 1930s, often placing or receiving a certificate of merit in its category. In 1936, a corner of the garden designed and maintained by Matron Millhouse and Sister JM Kingerley was featured by *The Mail* as a part of the Home's entry.³⁹ During the Second World War, the garden was converted to grow food.

The Home's women's auxiliary, formed in 1939 by Mrs FJ Fisher, also endeavoured to raise funds to provide 'comforts' for the residents. Its major fundraisers were an annual button day and Christmas Fete. In the mid-1930s, architect James Irwin, from Woods Bagot Laybourne Smith and Irwin, joined the Homes' Management Committee. Irwin would go on to oversee the largescale building programme that occurred at the Home in the decades after the Second World War.⁴⁰

In 1938, the Home received two sizable bequests, £10,000 from Frank Hayward and £4,000 from Mrs HE Reeves. A new ward was built in Hayward's name.⁴¹ However, the Second World War exacerbated not only financial concerns but also created staff shortages. In 1942, the Home stopped admitting new residents as it did not have sufficient staff to support them. By 1946, the situation became acute, and six nurses walked out in protest demanding additional pay. Essentially, the nurses were working a 75-hour week, with one day off, for a weekly pay of £2/10/- plus board and lodging. They were only meant to be working a 48-hour week and the striking nurses requested a £1 per week pay increase.⁴² Ultimately, the Home conceded to a 10 shilling a week increase (half of the requested amount) and stated that the striking nurses would be welcome to apply for a nursing position at that rate. A call was also made for women to volunteer at the Home to assist with covering the staff shortage. At least 7 volunteered.⁴³

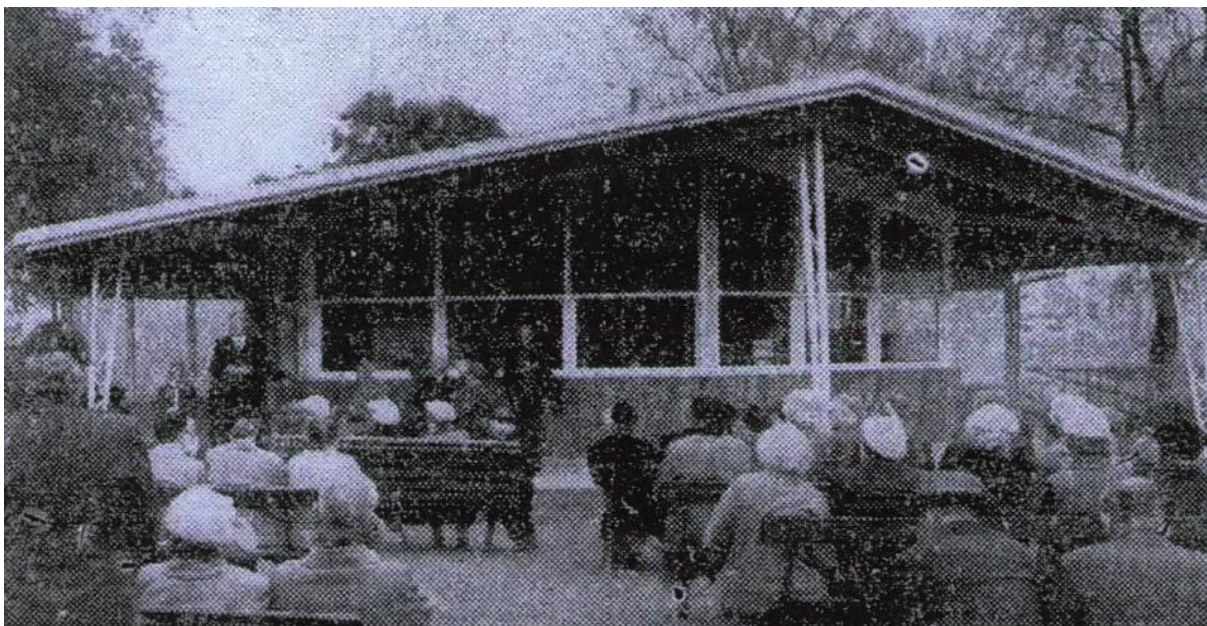
By the end of the 1940s, the use of bequests to meet operating costs had become commonplace. Then in 1948, even the bequests were insufficient to meet operating costs and the Home was facing a deficit of over £4,000. At the end of 1949, the bank allowed the Home to be overdrawn by £5,000 on the assumption that it would be able to raise those funds through appeals. Meanwhile the Home operated below capacity and some people who had been approved for a place found themselves waiting over 5-years to be admitted.⁴⁴

In 1948, the Management committee became a Board of Management led by a President rather than a Chair and appointed several subcommittees, including House; Finance; Buildings and Grounds; and, Medical and Admissions. The financial and staffing issues of the 1940s continued into the 1950s and costs continued to rapidly increase. Without substantial increases in the government subsidy the Home would have closed. For example, the government paid £7,000 to construct a new nurse's home in 1951, to enable increased staffing accommodation, which in turn would enable existing beds to be opened. The government also covered deficits while the £10,000 grant in 1952 became £45,000 in the 1953-1954 operating year. However, this was still far short of the expected annual running costs of £80,000. Fundraising, bequests, albeit reduced in comparison to previous years, and a portion of resident's pensions were used in attempts to cover the difference.⁴⁵

Sister Constance Watts was appointed as Matron in 1953 and over the next 20 years made many changes for the staff and residents. Some included the introduction of a cafeteria for staff, hair dressing salons for the residents, hydraulic baths, telephones for residents' use and crafts rooms.⁴⁶ These facilities were enabled by the new buildings

that would transform the Home. In 1954, department store Foy & Gibson introduced an annual Christmas shop for residents by bringing a range of merchandise to the Home and setting up a shop on site for a few days. John Martins department store took on the shop after Foy and Gibson closed.⁴⁷

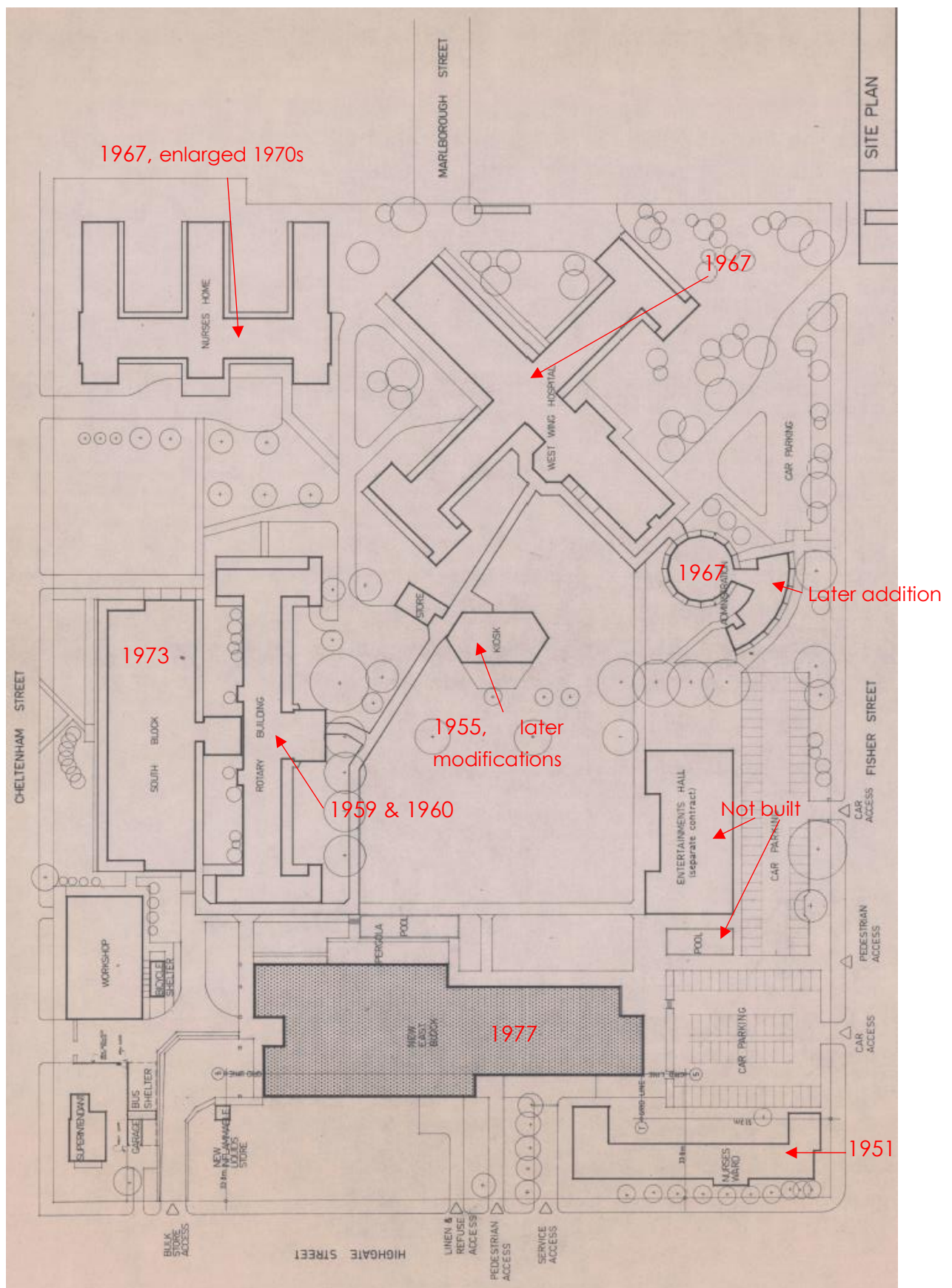
In 1955, Rotary Club of Adelaide made the Home the focus of its fundraising efforts for the year and a pound for pound subsidy was arranged with the government, in hopes that £100,000 could be raised to construct new buildings to accommodate more residents. Kerr notes that at this time more people were in wheelchairs than in the past and that the old buildings were not suitable for wheelchairs and trolleys.⁴⁸ The Rotary Building, as it was known, opened in two stages respectively 1959 and 1960 for the eastern and western parts of the building, providing accommodation for 52 female residents.⁴⁹



The Kiosk before it was enclosed and then later converted into a chapel.

Source: Hopgood, p.126.

The Women's Auxiliary raised funds for and built a kiosk in 1955 to provide refreshments to visitors, which was enlarged in 1967 and later modified to become the chapel in 1980 (subject of this assessment).⁵⁰ In addition to their fundraising activities that paid for many improvements to the Home, the Women's auxiliary also visited residents, arranged outings for them and operated the kiosk 7-days a week. All this work was undertaken voluntarily.⁵¹ In 1960, the Home employed John Maguire in a public relations and fundraising role and with the Chamber of Manufacturers he organised the Miss Industry Quest, from 1963.⁵²



Site Plan accompanying East Block architectural drawing (1974), annotated with completion building dates.

Source: Renewal SA

The mid-1960s heralded the beginning of a major building program that by the end of the 1970s would result in the complete rebuilding of the Home. This major period of redevelopment occurred under the guidance of architect James Irwin, who had been a member of the Management Committee from the mid-1930s, then Board of Management from 1948. Irwin chaired the Buildings and Grounds Committee and was President of the Home 1967-1981.⁵³

Woods Bagot Laybourne Smith and Irwin designed a number of the new buildings, including the 4-storey, cruciform Fisher Building, opened in 1967; a 4-storey structure built as an extension to the Rotary Building, opened 1973; and the 11-storey East Block, opened in 1977 by Premier Dunstan. It was the construction of East Block to accommodate over 400 residents that resulted in the demolition of the original Home. During this period of construction, a new administration building known as the round house was completed with a slightly later extension; the South West nurses' home was extended and named the Ringwood Building; wide, paved and covered walkways between the buildings were built; several smaller utility structures were constructed such as the workshop and bus shelter; and the grounds were landscaped as large expanses of lawn set with trees and smaller bespoke garden areas. Several large carparks were also made.⁵⁴

The construction of East Block at 11 storeys was controversial for its suburban setting and the plans for the building were initially rejected by the City of Unley. It was only after appeal to the Planning Appeal Board that permission was granted for a building of that height. The completion of East Block occurred just in time for the centenary of the Home in 1979 and enabled over 800 residents living with a disability to be accommodated across the 5.5-hectare site. Even still, Kerr noted that about 400 people were still on the waiting list.⁵⁵

East Block was based on Modern hospital design, although the lack of medical facilities means it is a ward block rather than a hospital. Modern hospital design emerged in the 1930s and by the early 1960s was being supplanted with new design ideas based on new medical practices and innovations. In South Australia, hospitals such as the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (1958-1959), Whyalla Hospital (1966) and Modbury Hospital (1973) are example of Modern hospital design.⁵⁶

East Block included a new kiosk and separate staff cafeteria on the ground floor, while the basement contained plant, an expansive commercial kitchen, laundry, mortuary and storage. The kitchen planned and produced a 28-day menu to reduce repetition of meals. Recreation, handcraft centre, physiotherapy, hairdressing, chiropractor, sewing, and a lecture room were provided on the first floor. Floors 2-9 were laid out as wards for residents based on the race-track principle, meaning nurses stations and other essential but common services such as laundries, bathrooms, medicine, etc were located in the centre of the floor, and encircled by a corridor that provided access to the wards configured as single, double and four-person wards and recreation spaces. The wrap around balcony could be accessed from each ward and the recreation spaces.⁵⁷

In 1981, the Home was renamed the Julia Farr Centre, recognising that the idea for the Home was first suggested by Julia Farr. The change of name also recognised that the term 'incurables' was misleading as medical advances had changed the prognosis for many residents and as such was considered to be a harmful way to describe them.⁵⁸ Importantly, while the Centre provided ongoing 'residential care for people with chronic physical ailments that impaired their capacity for independent living', there was a shift in focus to ensure rehabilitation to restore the 'maximum degree of self-sufficient capacity to enable the achievement of a satisfying life in a non-institutional environment.'⁵⁹

In 1985, the Fisher Building closed, remaining vacant for several years before being demolished in 2011. In 1994, the Julia Farr Centre was renamed Julia Farr Services. The contraction of buildings at the Centre continued when in 1996, Concordia College leased the Ringwood Building for student accommodation, later purchasing it. It was demolished in 2023. Julia Farr Services was incorporated into Disability SA in 2006, changing its name that year to Highgate Park. Residential care continued to be provided, however, by 2013 there were only about 100 residents. Highgate Park closed in 2020 with the remaining residents relocated to community-based accommodation. South Block and the Rotary Building had been previously acquired by Concordia College and were demolished in c.2021 to create additional oval and games courts for the students.⁶⁰

In 2023, Highgate Park was offered for sale, after considerable consultation with people living with a disability about the site's future. Julia Farr Association Inc, a not-for-profit agency once closely associated with the site, hopes that the sale will enable 'more effective ways to uphold the disability community's voice and inclusion in community life.'⁶¹

Chronology

Year	Event
1849	Adelaide Benevolent and Strangers' Friend Society is established to assist the poor. It is the first such organisation in South Australia.
1850	Gosse family arrive in South Australia and travel to the Victorian gold diggings.
1853	Dr William Gosse and Dr Benjamin Archer Kent go into partnership
1854	The Hospital for Incurables (later Royal Hospital for Incurables) is established in Carshalton Surrey England, quickly relocating to Putney London in 1858.
1856	By March, the Destitute Asylum providing 'poor relief' is operating from a quadrangle of buildings off Kintore Ave.
1857	Dr William Gosse goes into partnership with Dr Anton Bayer.
1860	Julia Farr is involved in the establishment of The Orphan Home, an institution she will have an on-going association with until just prior to her death.
1861	The Orphan Home relocates from Stepney to Carrington Street, Adelaide.
1870	William Gosse receives a Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons diploma.
1873	Charles Gosse joins his father in partnership.
1874	South Australian Institute for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb is established to provide a home for children.
1877	Dr William Gosse is appointed to Adelaide Hospital Board of Management.
1878	Julia Farr and Dr William Gosse come up with the idea of establishing a Home for Incurables, in response to inadequate and inappropriate care provided by the Destitute Asylum to people living with a disability. Dr William Gosse is appointed visitor to the Parkside Lunatic Asylum.
1879	Julia Farr, Dr Gosse, Hon. Alexander Hay MLC and George Hawkes form a provisional committee of 27 like-minded people to establish the Home for Incurables. A 9-acre site including an existing 8-roomed house is purchased in Fullarton for the Home. Gosse is elected the first chairman of the Board managing the Home. The Home becomes an incorporated body in October, with the first residents arriving 17 October, under the care of Matron Epplein. Dr William Gosse becomes the first president of the South Australian Medical Society.

- 1880 Architect James Cumming prepares plans for a new structure, to be built in stages, to increase occupancy at the Home. Lady Jervois lays the foundation stone on 22 September.
- 1881 New structure at the Home is completed providing beds for 30 residents, the Matron and 2 nurses. The construction of the new building is a staged process that occurs over the following decades.
MA Cox becomes Matron.
- 1882 Dr TW Corbin is appointed as medical officer (paid position).
- 1883 Dr Gosse dies and is replaced by Dr RT Wylde on the Home's Management Committee. Calls for donations in Dr Gosse's names are answered enabling the construction of North Wing in Gosse's name.
Miss MA Cox is appointed Matron at the Home.
- 1884 Industrial School for the Blind/Institute for the Blind and later Royal Society for the Blind is established.
- 1885 June, 62 residents are living at the Home.
- 1891 B Trehwela becomes Matron of the Home.
South Australian Deaf and Dumb Mission, now Deaf Can:Do is established.
- 1892 Angas Wing opens after several sizable bequests are received in the preceding years. Notably from JH Angas.
- 1893 K Poole becomes Matron of the Home.
- 1894 Kalyra Sanatorium opens to assist people with tuberculosis.
Estcourt House begin operating as a home for children and the elderly living with a disability.
- 1898 Minda is established to provide a home for children with intellectual disabilities.
- 1899 Angas Home and Farm is established providing a home for deaf people and work opportunities on the farm.
- 1908 The Orphan Home management committee purchases the home of Mr O'Halloran Giles and the institution is relocated from Carrington Street to 588 Fullarton Road, Mitcham.
- 1911 M Murray becomes Matron of the Home.
- 1913 Additional accommodation is constructed for the staff to live in.
- 1914 LB Jones becomes Matron of the Home.
- 1916 McNally Hall is opened after a sizable bequest from Michael McNally.
- 1918 Sister DM Millhouse becomes Matron of the Home. Dr Corbin dies and is replaced as medical officer by his sons Drs C & J Corbin.
- 1920s Lady Bridges suggests the Home is registered as a nurses training school to assist in alleviating staff shortages.
- 1925 The Home is registered as a nurses' training school.

- 1929 The Home celebrates its Jubilee announcing that the original building scheme for the Home has been completed.
- 1930s The Home competes in *The Mail's* annual gardening competition. A corner cared for by Sister JM Kingerley and Matron Millhouse is featured in 1937.
- 1935 The Orphan Home is incorporated and renamed Farr House after Julia Farr.
James Campbell Irwin joins the Home Management and Building Committees.
- 1938 Sizable bequests enable further buildings to be constructed or extended at the Home.
- 1939 Mrs FJ Fisher forms the Women's Auxiliary.
- 1942 New admissions are ceased due to staff shortages caused by the second World War.
- 1944 M Garde becomes Matron of the Home.
- 1946 Six nurses walk out due to poor pay and working conditions. Only half their requested pay increase is forthcoming.
JBK Grieg becomes Matron of the Home.
- 1948 The financial situation of the Home is dire and the Home's accounts are overdrawn by £5,000.
The Management Committee becomes a Board of Management.
Staffing remains problematic.
- 1951 A new nurses' home (Gosse Building) is constructed.
- 1952 Government support for the Home substantially increases.
- 1953 Sister Constance Watts becomes Matron and over the next 20 years introduces many improvements for residents and staff.
- 1954 CL Watt become Matron of the Home.
Department store Foy and Gibson introduce an annual 2-day Christmas shop at the Home so that residents can shop for Christmas gifts.
- 1955 Rotary Club of Adelaide makes the Home the focus of its annual fundraising efforts, with funding matched pound for pound by the Government. The aim is to raise £100,000 to enable new building projects.
Women's auxiliary builds a kiosk, which it operates 7-days a week providing refreshments to visitors to the Home.
- 1959-1960 The Rotary Building opens in two stages.
- 1960s Commonwealth Rehabilitation Services expands its 'back to work' service beyond war veterans, to the general population of people with a disability.

- Fundamental changes in thinking about how people living with a disability are supported arise in response to broader rights movements.
- 1967 James Irwin becomes the President of the Board of Management and Chair of the Buildings and Grounds Committee.
The home begins to realise a major redevelopment of the site that will continue for the next decade.
Fisher Building, new Nurses Home (Ringwood), Roundhouse (Administration) are built.
- 1973 South Block opens
- 1974 IR Thompson becomes Matron of the Home.
- 1975 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons.
- 1977 East Block opens, necessitating the demolition of the original Home.
- 1980s-present Deinstitutionalisation commences and continues, starting by separating housing and support for people with a disability, known as community care.
- 1981 The Home for Incurables is renamed Julia Farr Centre.
International Year of Disabled Persons.
- 1982 Farr House (former Orphan Home) closes due to changes in the forms of care provided for children.
- 1985 Fisher Building closes.
'Federal Handicapped Programs Review' documents experiences of institutional care across Australia, 3,000 people provide evidence. It is the first review of its kind to listen to people with a disability.
Home and Community Care Act (Commonwealth) assented.
- 1986 *Disability Services Act* (Commonwealth) assented.
- 1990s Community care is known as supported living.
- 1992 *Disability Discrimination Act* (Commonwealth) assented
- 1993 *Disability Services Act* (SA) assented.
- 1994 Julia Farr Centre is renamed Julia Farr Services.
- 1996 Concordia College leases the Ringwood Building, later purchasing it.
- 1997 Gosse Building becomes the Gosse International Student Residence, providing accommodation for interstate and international students.
- 2006 Julia Farr Services is renamed Highgate Park.
- 2009 National Disability and Carer Alliance formed, includes many peak bodies representing people with a disability, as a 'groundswell movement' calling for change in community and supported living. Ultimately resulted in National Disability Insurance Scheme and Person-Centred planning model as the benchmark basis of care for people with a disability.
- 2011 The long-vacant Fisher Building is demolished.

- 2013 National Disability Insurance Scheme commences in stages.
- 2014 Department for Human Services decides that no new residents are to be admitted to Highgate Park, in line with a commitment that all people living with a disability will be supported out of institutions.
- 2018 *Disability Inclusion Act* (SA) assented.
- 2020 The last resident moves out of Highgate Park and the facility closes.
- 2021 Rotary Building and South Block are demolished.
- 2023 Final Report of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with a Disability is published.
Ringwood Building is demolished.
Highgate Park is offered for sale with the support of the community living with a disability is South Australia.

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Maps, Plans and Images

Images of the Home for Incurables and Julia Farr Centre held at the State Library of South Australia by accession number and date in chronological order:

B 3113 c.1879	B 71524/1 1910	PRG 1688/6/2 1975	B 44227 1984
PRG 742/5/132 1880	B 71524/2 1910	PRG 1688/6/1 1975	B 44225 1984
PRG 742/5/135 1880	B 71524/3 1910	B 30254 1975	B 44228 1984
B 12228 c.1885	B 731 1921	B 30253 1975	
B 63015/39 1887	PRG 280/1/41/16	B 35492 1978	
	1923		
B 63803 1887	PRG 280/1/41/126	B 35490 1978	
	c.1923		
B 1612 1889	PRG 280/1/35/202	B 35491 1978	
	1925		
B 698 c.1910	B 71523 1937	B 44226 1984	

Env Maps Aerial Images of 103 Fisher Street, Fullarton Highgate Park Site for years 1949, 1968-1969, 1979, 1981, 1986-1989, 1992, 1995, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2010, 2015, 2020.

Woods Bagot Laybourne Smith and Irwin 'Home for Incurables, Inc Proposed New East Block, Fisher Street, Fullarton', Plans Set no.4.

SITE RECORD

NAME:	Highgate Park (former Julia Farr Centre)	PLACE NO.:	26574
FORMER NAME:	Home for Incurables 1879-1981, Julia Farr Centre 1981-1994, Julia Farr Services (1994-2006), Highgate Park (2006-2020).		
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Institutional Complex including a high-rise ward-based accommodation block, nurses' home, kiosk converted into a chapel, and administration building. Landscaped grounds including expanses of lawn, specimen trees, garden beds, covered walkway and car parking.		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	Nurses Home (Gosse Building) 1951 Chapel (formerly kiosk) 1955 Roundhouse (Administration) 1967 East Block 1976		
REGISTER STATUS:	Nominated 26 September 2023		
CURRENT USE:	Chapel – vacant Roundhouse – vacant Gosse Building – International Student Residence East Block – largely vacant, temporary offices some levels		
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Institutional care for people living with a disability 1879-2020		
ARCHITECT:	East Block – Woods Bagot Pty Ltd (1976-1977)		
BUILDER:	Administration Building - SJ Weir Pty Ltd (1966-1967) Kiosk Additions – Combe and Kramer Pty Ltd (1966) East Block – AW Baulderstone Pty Ltd (1976)		
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	City of Unley		
LOCATION:	Street No.:	103	
	Street Name:	Fisher Street	
	Town/Suburb:	Fullarton	
	Post Code:	5063	
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title	CT 5994/236 A73 D74086	
	Reference:		
	Hundred:	Adelaide	

PHOTOS

NAME: Highgate Park (former Julia Farr Centre)

PLACE NO.: 26574

Unless otherwise specified all images are from DEW File 26574 and were taken as a part of site visits on 18 and 30 October 2024.



The Chapel formerly the Kiosk, showing northern elevation.



The Chapel, eastern elevation, note the structure for climbing plants.

NAME: Highgate Park (former Julia Farr Centre)

PLACE NO.: 26574



The chapel showing the southern elevation (left) and main entrance (right) note the hopper windows.



Interior worship space, note the timber ceiling, cross form to floor lino and windows.

Source: Renewal SA



Interior showing the raised platform in the worship space.

Source: Renewal SA



Interior of the Chapel showing built-in cupboards.

Source: Renewal SA



Interior showing one of the rooms in the Chapel.

Source: Renewal SA



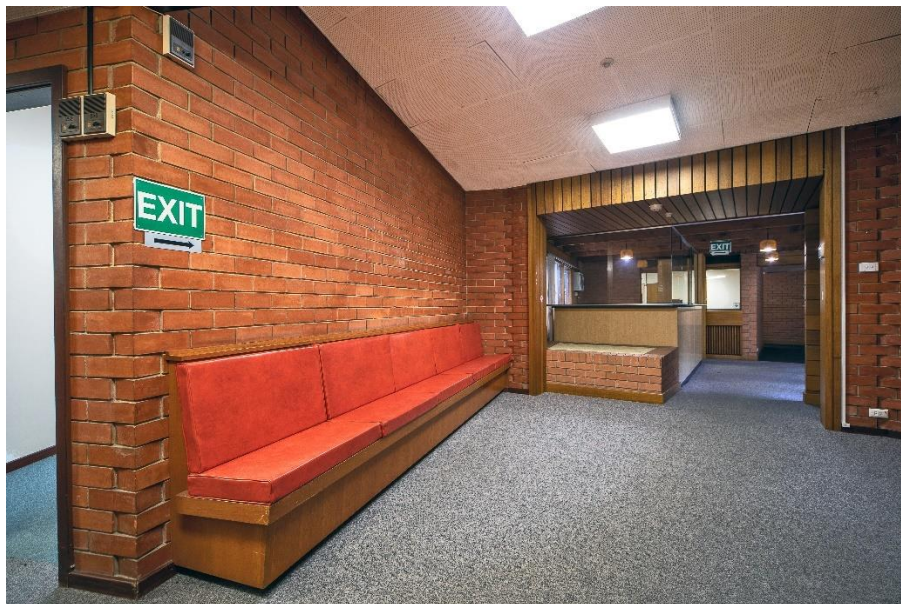
View of the Roundhouse (Administration Building)

Source: Renewal SA



View of the Interior of the Roundhouse.

Source: Renewal SA



Interior of the Roundhouse showing the reception area.

Source: Renewal SA



Interior of the Roundhouse showing office space.

Source: Renewal SA



Gosse Building (former Nurses' Home) Fisher Street frontage, note the veranda.



View of the Gosse Building from East Block, showing the roof and western elevation.



Gosse Building showing southern elevation and frontage to Highgate Street and verandah.



Gosse Building, showing one of the single bedrooms at Gosse International Student Residence.

Source: <http://www.studentresidence.com.au/accommodation/rooms/>



Interior of Gosse Building showing entry

Source: Renewal SA



Interior of Gosse Building showing recreation space.

Source: Renewal SA



Gosse Building showing a communal kitchen.

Source: Renewal SA



East Block looking to the west, Gosse Building is in the foreground (right).

Source: Renewal SA



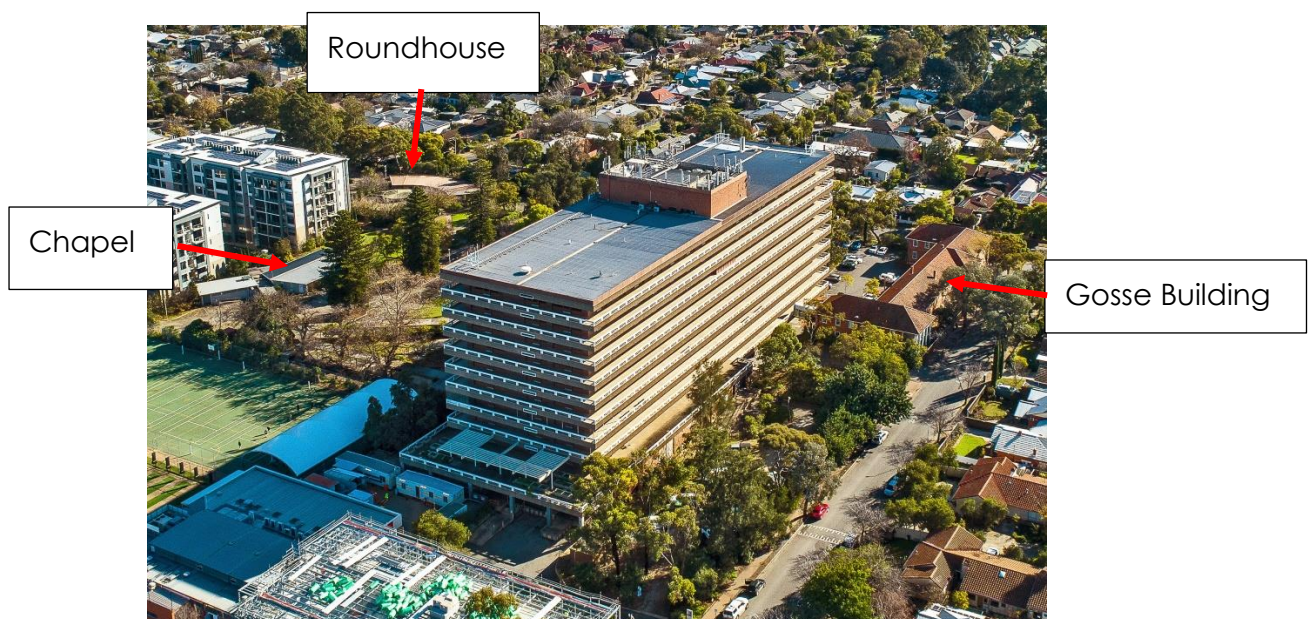
East Block view to the southwest, Gosse Building in the foreground.

Source: Renewal SA



East Block looking east, showing the covered walkway to the Chapel and the grounds landscaped with lawns and trees.

Source: Renewal SA



East Block view to the north showing the 'roof' garden on level 1, landscaping to Highgate Street (right), Gosse Building (top right), Chapel (mid-left) and Roundhouse (top left).

Source: Renewal SA



Corridor, East Block.



Example of a preparation room, East Block.



Nurses Station, level 8 East Block



Example of a recreation space for the residents, typically located at the corner of the floor to provide expansive views on two sides.

NAME: Highgate Park (former Julia Farr Centre)

PLACE NO.: 26574



Balcony looking towards the city, note the clinker brick and balustrade.



Internal staircase in service core.



Example of a bathroom for residents.



Example of a store room.



Example of a 4-bed ward, showing shared basin, cupboard and draw unit for one resident, access to balcony and half of the residential space where two beds were placed with head against the wall and facing two beds opposite, note overhead light and sockets for various equipment, acoustic ceiling tiles and linoleum floor.



Staircase from carpark to East Block.



Concrete and red-masonry pathways, note the concrete planters.



Example of the off-formwork to external columns.



Examples of the balcony panels with exposed aggregate.

NAME: Highgate Park (former Julia Farr Centre)

PLACE NO.: 26574



Concrete and pine pergola adjacent to the staff cafeteria.



Balcony, showing the exposed aggregate concrete panels and balustrading.



Southern elevation, showing the loading dock and first floor 'roof' garden.



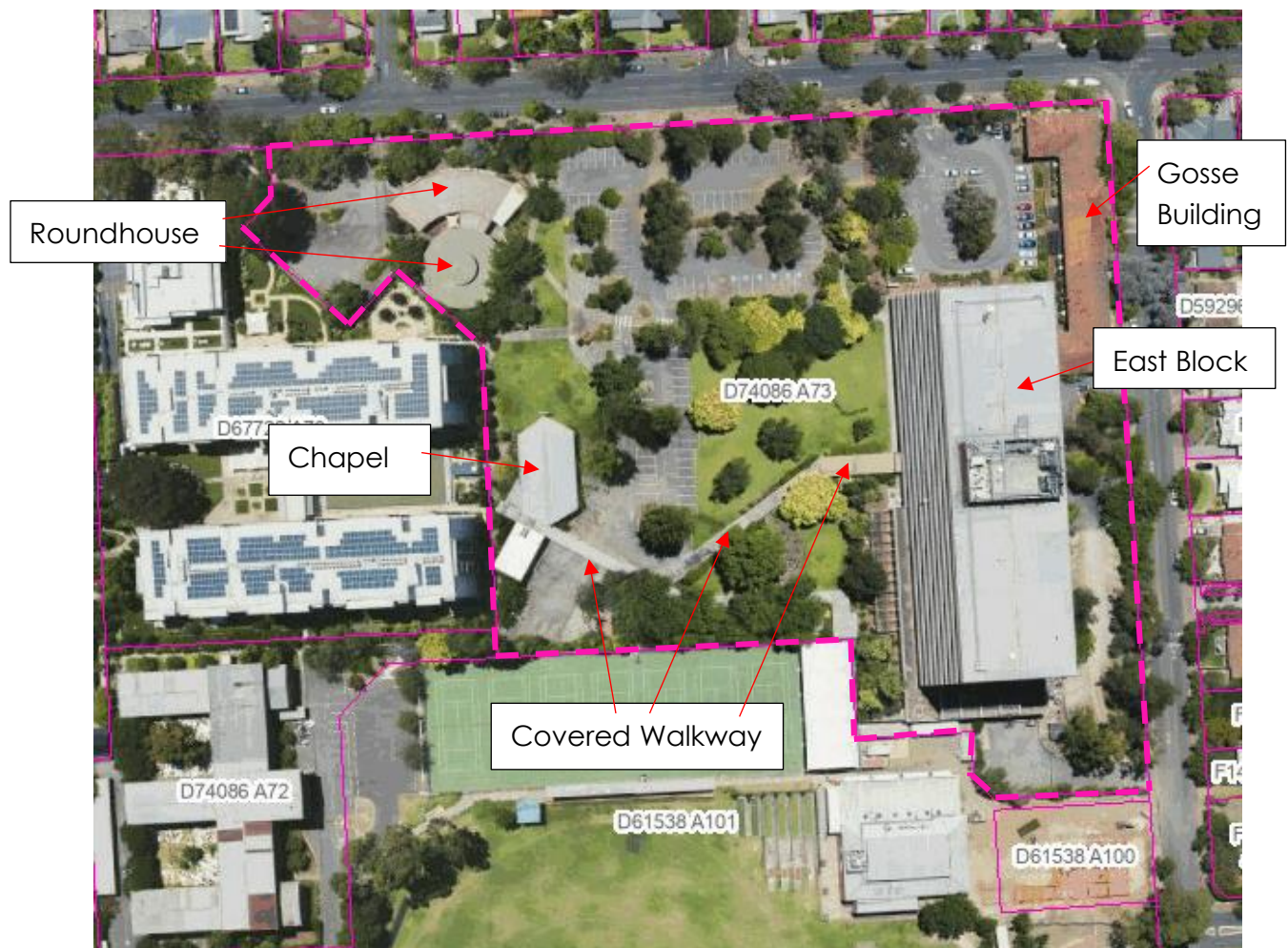
Landscaping to Highgate Street.



An example of the lawns and gardens at Highgate Park, showing the memorial garden (top left), specimen tree and covered walkway (top right), fountain (mid left), aviary (mid right), garden beds (bottom left) and lawn spaces (bottom right).

SITE PLAN

NAME: Highgate Park (formerly Juila Farr Centre) **PLACE NO.:** 26574



Highgate Park (formerly Julia Farr Centre), 103 Fisher Street, Fullarton, (CT 5994/236 A73
D74086, Hundred of Adelaide)

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LEGEND

 Parcel boundaries

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- ¹ McDougal and Vines (2014), 'Royal Adelaide Hospital Site Heritage Assessment', (Adelaide: Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources).
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- ⁹ Quoted in Rob Linn 'Philanthropy' SA History Hub <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/philanthropy> [accessed 8 November 2023].
- ¹⁰ 'Kalyra Sanatorium (1894-1988)' <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/sa/SE01167> [accessed 8 November 2023].
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- ¹² Minda has had several names, each variation retaining Minda within the name and is currently known as Minda Inc. <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/sa/SE00161> <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/sa/SE01231> <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/sa/SE01291> [accessed 8 November 2023].
- ¹³ 'South Australian Institution for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb (1874-1946)' <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/sa/SE01209> [accessed 8 November 2023].
- ¹⁴ Queen's Home has had several names but was commonly referred to as the Queen Vic, <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/sa/SE01198> <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/sa/SE01200> <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/guide/sa/SE01201>
- ¹⁵ 'History and Comparative Analysis' 92 Brougham Place Assessment DEW Files.
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