

SEE HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

22 April 2026

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site**PLACE:** 26632**ADDRESS:** Karna Country

141 Fullarton Road, Rose Park

Based on the information available to it, Heritage South Australia of the Department for Environment and Water presents this heritage assessment that considers the place does not satisfy any of the Section 16 criteria of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.



Northern elevation of Vasey House, part of the Former War Widows' Guild Site.

Source: DEW Files, 6 March 2026

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**Statement of Heritage Significance:**

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

Relevant South Australian Historical Themes

4: Building Settlements, Towns and Cities

4.8: Making Homes for South Australians

4.9: Living on the Fringes (including homelessness)

6: Developing Social and Cultural Life (Supporting and Building Communities

6.4: Forming community organisations/Developing cultural and social organisations

Comparative Analysis:

The former War Widows' Guild Site is associated with Social and Subsidised Housing; Women's Organisations; Services and Organisations for Veterans and Families of Veterans; Victorian and Federation Villas; Jessie Vasey; Edith Janet Mayo; and Jean Rouse. Each is considered in turn below.

Social and Subsidised Housing Provision

South Australia has a long history of providing social and subsidised housing. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, social and subsidised housing typically entailed 'workers' housing' (subsidised homes for workers) and 'cottage housing' (homes provided for the aged poor). The provision of this type of housing was driven largely by private, religious or institutional philanthropy.¹ There are several places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register (the Register) that are associated with this theme (see below).

Beginning in the 1920s, the state government increased its role in providing affordable housing through the Thousand Homes Scheme for veterans and low-income families, as demonstrated by the Colonel Light Gardens State Heritage Area (SHA 11597).² During the 1930s, the government subsequently established the South Australian Housing Trust (SAHT). The SAHT became the leading provider of subsidised housing, first primarily for workers to facilitate industrialisation (c.1930s – 1970s) and later mostly for economically vulnerable people (c.1970s – present).³ Nonetheless, the SAHT has provided housing for the latter in some capacity for most of its existence, including for war widows since the 1940s and elderly pensioners since the early 1950s.⁴

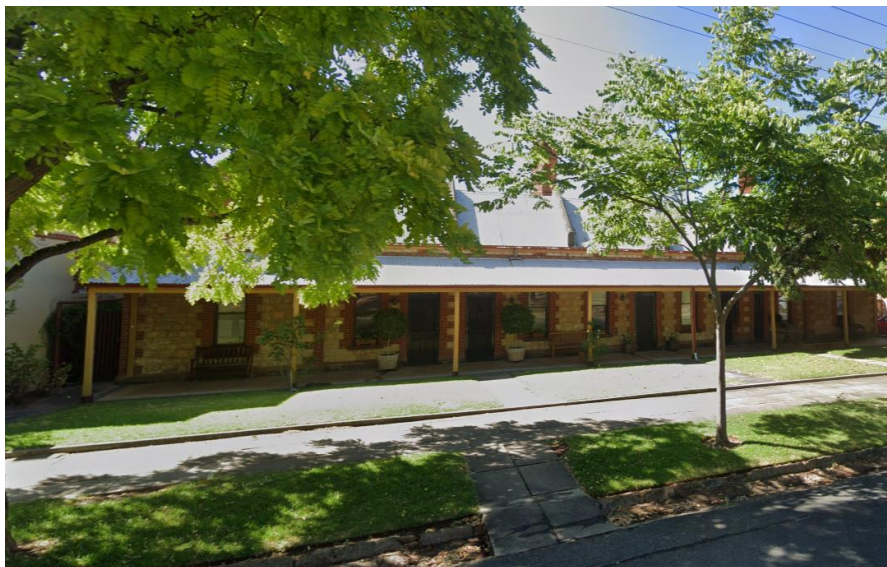
Despite the dominant role of the SAHT in providing social and subsidised housing since the late 1930s, various philanthropic, religious and non-for-profit organisations have operated in South Australia. Organisations such as the Adelaide Benevolent Society (established 1849), Resthaven (established 1935), the Returned Services League (RSL) (established 1916 and housing first provided in 1917), Cottage Homes (established 1872), ACH Group (formerly Aged Cottage Homes, established 1952), UnitingSA (originally the Port Adelaide Central Methodist Mission, established 1919), the War Widows' Guild of Australia South Australia Inc. (established in 1946 and housing first provided in c.1957) and others have provided long-term housing for various people for decades.

Examples of State Heritage Places (SHPs) associated with social and subsidised housing in South Australia include:

- 'Elder Mews' cottages (former Adelaide Workmen's Homes), 214-226A Angas Street and 220-230 Frome Street, Adelaide (13 SHPs: 10764 and 10771 to 10782); confirmed 26 November 1981; erected c.1899 by Adelaide Workmen's Homes, a philanthropic organisation founded by Thomas Elder; the complex originally comprised 45 houses.
- 'Dean Marryat Homes', 82-100 Stanley Street, North Adelaide (13 SHPs: 10898 to 10910); confirmed 24 July 1980; erected between 1872 and 1882; philanthropists built the cottages for 'widows, the aged and infirm poor'.
- Dwelling – 'Cottage Homes', also known as Dwellings (former 'Lady Ayers Homes'), 51-60 Kingston Terrace, North Adelaide (SHP 13561); confirmed 11 September 1986; as above.
- Dwelling – 'Scarfe Cottage Homes', 3-11 and 4-12 Gertrude Street, Norwood (two SHPs: 14137 and 14140); confirmed 27 September 1990; erected c.1906; George Scarfe's will allocated funds for building cottages for the poor and elderly.⁵
- Colonel Light Gardens State Heritage Area, Colonel Light Gardens (SHA 11597); confirmed 4 May 2000; established by the state government during the 1920s as part of the Thousand Homes Scheme.
- Dwelling – First Housing Trust Homes, 35 and 37 McNicol Terrace, Rosewater (SHP 13125); confirmed 20 November 1986; erected in 1936 by the SAHT.
- Manitoba Housing Complex, 228-256 Carrington Street, 7-29 Hume Land, 1-32 Regent Street North, Adelaide (SHP 26419); confirmed 17 June 2015 under criteria (a) and (e); erected between 1974-76 by the SAHT; constituted the first 'large-scale construction of public housing in the history of the city'.⁶
- Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex, 3-57 Capper Street, Kent Town (SHP 26514); confirmed 19 October 2023 under criteria (a) and (g); erected between 1978-1979 by the SAHT; is considered an 'important example in the evolution of social housing in South Australia' and has a special association with architect Newell Platten.⁷

Some non-listed examples of postwar places include:

- Cottage Flats, Seaton Park; erected in c.1954 by the SAHT for older pensioners; status unknown, likely demolished.
- Cottage Flats, 88 Harding Street, Somerton Park; erected in c.1957 by the Adelaide Benevolent Society to accommodate older pensioners.
- St Georges Court, 2 Murray Avenue, Magill; erected in c.1965-1969 by Aged Cottage Homes (now ACH Group) to accommodate older people.
- Perry Park, 100 Murray Road, Port Noarlunga; erected c.1975 by Aged Cottage Homes (now ACH Group) to accommodate older people.



A portion of Dwelling – 'Cottage Homes' (SHP 13561), 51-60 Kingston Terrace, North Adelaide.

Source: Google Street View, 2023



Dwelling – First Housing Trust Homes (SHP 13125), 35-37 McNicol Terrace, Rosewater.

Source: Google Street View, 2009



A portion of Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex (SHP 26514), 3-57 Capper Street, Kent Town.

Source: DEW Files, 2022



Cottage Flats, 88 Harding Street, Somerton Park (Adelaide Benevolent Society, built c.1957)

Source: ENV Maps



St Georges Court, 2 Murray Avenue, Magill (Aged Cottage Homes, built c.1965-1969).

Source: ENV Maps



Perry Park, 100 Murray Road, Port Noarlunga (Aged Cottage Homes, built c.1975).

Source: ENV Maps

Women's Organisations

Although women's organisations have indisputably made significant contributions to the history of South Australia, there are few places associated with them in the Register. The only SHP in the Register that is expressly and purposely related to the commemoration of a collectivity of women is the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden in Adelaide (SHP 16177). Similarly, there appears to be only three SHPs explicitly related to women's organisations, namely Hall – CWA Clubroom (also known as Elliston CWA (Country Women's Association) Rest Rooms) in Elliston (SHP 14204), YWCA Headquarters – Former in Adelaide (SHP 10957) and House (also known as Dwelling (the Former Girls Friendly Society), SHP 10862) in North Adelaide.

There are additional non-listed places in South Australia that have relatively long-term associations with large and/or historically influential women's organisations. Some notable places include the National Council of Women SA's office on South Terrace in Adelaide; the Women's Community Centre in Stepney (originally the St Peter's Women's Community Centre); the South Australian Country Women's Association's (CWA) headquarters in Kent Town and the many CWA buildings located in country towns across the state.

Moreover, various specialist women's organisations operate in the state, several of which have been operating for decades, although not all necessarily at the same location. Examples of such organisations include the Working Women's Centre SA, the Australian South East Asian Women's Association, the Muslim Women's Association of South Australia, the Ukrainian Women's Association in South Australia, Widows' Legacy Clubs, the War Widows' Guild (subject of this assessment) and more.

Examples of SHPs associated with women collectively and women's organisations include:

- Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden, King William Road, Adelaide (SHP 16177); confirmed 12 February 1998 under criteria (a) and (f); erected in 1941 to 'commemorate the contribution made by pioneer women to South Australia's development' and in part listed because the garden 'illustrates a greater acknowledgement, and a changing perception, of the role of women in the community'.⁸
- Women's War Memorial Garden, Cross of Sacrifice and Stone of Remembrance, Pennington Garden, King William Road, North Adelaide (SHP 16182); confirmed 12 February 1998 under criterion (f); significant in part because it was 'initiated by women' as a 'reminder of the grief so many experienced as a result of the loss of their loved ones during the war'.⁹
- Hall – CWA Clubroom (also known as Elliston CWA (Country Women's Association) Rest Rooms), 9 Memorial Drive, Elliston (SHP 14204); confirmed 23 April 1992; associated with the Country Women's Association.
- YWCA Headquarters – Former, 49 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide (SHP 10957); confirmed 8 November 1984; associated with the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).
- House, 56-60 Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide (SHP 10862); confirmed 24 July 1980; associated with the Former Girls Friendly Society.

Examples of Local Heritage Places (LHPs) associated with women's organisations in South Australia include:

- CWA Hall, 8 Mann Street, Mount Barker (LHP); authorised on 24 December 1998; associated with the Country Women's Association.
- CWA Club Rooms (1960), 46 Young Street, Penola (LHP); authorised on 24 September 2009; associated with the Country Women's Association.
- CWA Hall, Lot 100 Railway Terrace, Quorn (LHP); authorised on 20 June 2013; associated with the Country Women's Association.

Examples of non-listed places associated with large and/or historically influential women's organisations in South Australia include:

- National Council of Women SA – 95 South Terrace, Adelaide (owned since 1957).¹⁰
- South Australian Country Women's Association accommodation and headquarters, 30 Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town (owned since 1951).
- Women's Community Centre, 64 Nelson Street, Stepney, SA.



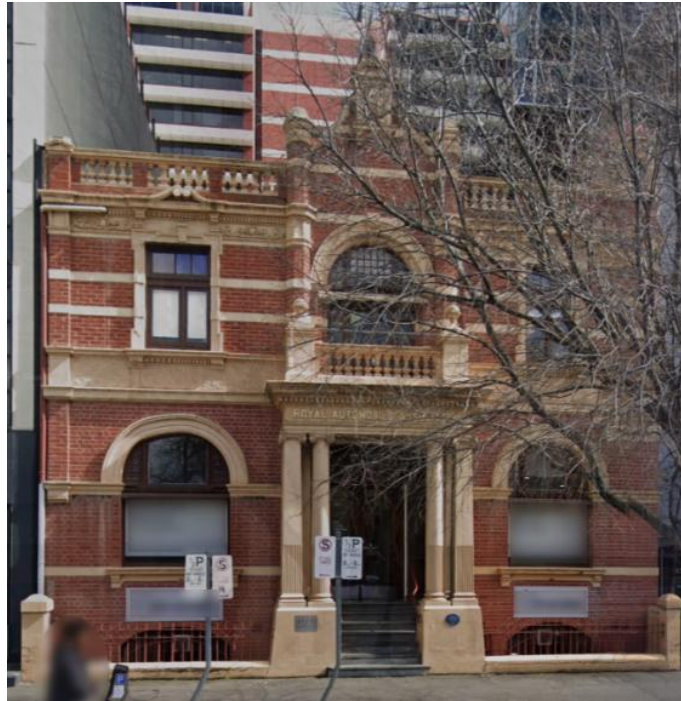
View of Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden (SHP 16177), King William Road, Adelaide.

Source: Google Street View, 2019



Hall – CWA Clubroom (SHP 14204), 9 Memorial Drive, Elliston.

Source: Google Street View, 2010



YWCA Headquarters – Former (SHP 10957), 49 Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide.

Source: Google Street View, 2023

Services and Organisations for Former Defence Personnel and their Families

The Commonwealth's Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is the principal governmental organisation responsible for administering services for former defence personnel in Australia. Prior to the advent of the DVA in 1976, such services were the remit of the Repatriation Department and its two short-lived successors. Places associated with the latter in South Australia include:

- Keswick Barracks, 2 Anzac Highway, Keswick (subject of a separate assessment); and,
- Repatriation General Hospital, 216 Daws Road, Daw Park (SHP 26305); confirmed 13 December 2013 under criteria (a), (d), (f) and (g).

The Government of South Australia operates Veterans SA. This agency was established in 2008.

The two largest non-governmental organisations related to the post-service lives of former defence personnel and their families in South Australia are the Returned & Services League of Australia (SA Branch), better known as the RSL, and the Legacy Club of South Australia and Broken Hill, better known as Legacy. The former was established during the First World War in 1916, and the latter was established in 1928. As of February 2026, the RSL has 118 sub-branches located across the state.¹¹ In 2020, Legacy operated over 36 Widows' Clubs and 25 social groups across South Australia and Broken Hill, although as of 2026 some have ceased operating.¹²

As of 2026, the headquarters for both the RSL and Legacy are located at the Torrens Training Depot and Parade Ground:

- Torrens Training Depot and Parade Ground, King William Road, Adelaide (SHP 14617); confirmed 11 June 1998 under criterion (a).

The above is not listed due to its associations with either organisation. However, it may be appropriate to update the SHP in the future to recognise the place's ongoing association with them.



Torrens Training Depot and Parade Ground (SHP 14617), Adelaide.

Source: Wikimedia Commons (user: Borgarde); public domain.

There were or are various places related to the RSL and Legacy within South Australia, such as:

- Former Legacy House, 102-104 Franklin Street, Adelaide; heavily modified.
- Former Legacy House, 320 King William Street, Adelaide; formerly King's Theatre; modified.
- War Veterans Home, 55 Fergusson Avenue, Myrtle Bank; the original homestead was demolished in 2005, but the site continues to be an aged care facility operated by the RSL.¹³
- Clubrooms (RSL Memorial), 20 Crittenden Road, Findon (LHP); converted to a memorial and meeting hall in 1946.
- RSL Hall, 44 High Street, Strathalbyn (LHP); converted to a meeting hall in 1930.
- RSL Hall, 2-6 Kapunda Street, Kapunda (LHP); converted to a memorial and meeting hall in 1929.

Other organisations that have operated or are operating in South Australia include TPI-SA, the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia SA Branch, Military Advocates SA and Australian War Widows (SA) Incorporated (subject of this assessment).



RSL Hall, Kapunda (LHP)

Source: Google Street View (January 2025)

Victorian and Federation Villas

'Villas' erected during the late-19th and early-20th centuries are abundant in South Australia and are found in both suburban and regional areas. They are usually single-storey dwellings built of a combination of stone and brick and are commonly asymmetrical. Other typical features include bay windows, return verandahs and hipped roofs.¹⁴

There are outstanding villas listed as State and Local Heritage Places. Many more are 'Representative Buildings' within 'Historic Area Overlays' in the Planning and Design Code. For instance, many of the Representative Buildings in the Rose Park Historic Area (Bur1) are Victorian and Federation villas. The Historic Area Overlay exists to provide a level of protection to the suburb's late 19th and early 20th century urban character, stemming primarily from the consistency of its streetscape. This historic streetscape consists of dwellings of stone and brick, including villas as well as cottages, setbacks, spacing, fencing, gardens, and street tree plantings which include avenues of mature trees.¹⁵ There are other Historic Area Overlays immediately adjacent or near Rose Park, including those for Tusmore (Bur5), Toorak Gardens North (Bur6) and Toorak Gardens Fergusson Square (Bur7). These Historic Areas share many of the same historic themes as the one for Rose Park, though they also include later dwellings, such as bungalows erected between 1918 and 1952.¹⁶

Historic Area Overlays can include character protections for landscape features through the categories 'Fencing' and 'Setting and public realm features'. The Rose Park Historic Area, for instance, identifies 'Masonry and cast iron palisade[s]' and 'Some substantial hedging' under Fencing, and 'Substantial avenues, trees and gardens' and 'Significant front landscaped gardens' under Setting and public realm features.¹⁷



Rose Park Historic Area (Bur1) showing Overlay (blue shading and grey boundaries) and Representative Buildings (red). Portions of the Toorak Gardens North (Bur6) and Toorak Gardens Fergusson Square (Bur7) Historic Areas are shown respectively to the top right and bottom right. The War Widows' Guild Site is denoted by the red X.

Source: PlanSA, Planning and Design Code (Part 3 - Overlays)

Jessie Vasey

Jessie Mary Vasey (née Halbert; b. 19 October 1887, d. 22 September 1966), founder of the War Widows' Guild of Australia, was born in Queensland and moved to Victoria at the age of fourteen. Vasey first established the organisation in Victoria, as the War Widows' Craft Guild, in 1945-46. Due to her advocacy, the War Widows' Craft Guild was subsequently expanded to become a national organisation, with branches in other states and territories. When these branches were federated in 1947, Vasey was elected as the first National President of the War Widows' Guild of Australia. Vasey subsequently served as the National and Victorian president concurrently until her death in 1966.¹⁸

Vasey was a tireless and outspoken advocate for war widows in Australia. While the Guild was ostensibly founded as a community and self-help organisation, it also served as a pressure group. Most notably, Vasey successfully led the Guild in its campaign to raise the rate of the Commonwealth's war widow's pension. In the process, she established the Guild's status as an authoritative voice representing war widows in Australia.¹⁹

Beginning in the 1950s, Vasey's focus turned to housing aging war widows in semi-communal settings, culminating in the acquisition or construction of various buildings. Her housing efforts were initiated primarily through the Victorian branch and from 1969 through its trust, the Vasey Housing Auxiliary (War Widows' Guild) Limited. Other state branches followed her initiative, albeit in different ways.²⁰

In recognition of her importance to the Guild, various properties throughout Australia were named in her honour, including Vasey Place in Hawthorn, Victoria, Vasey Court in Nundah, Queensland, and Vasey House in South Australia. Vasey was appointed Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1950 and Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1963.²¹

In South Australia, Jessie Vasey is associated with:

- Former War Widows' Guild Site, 141 Fullarton Road, Rose Park (subject of this assessment).

Janet Mayo

Edith Janet Allen Mayo (née Simpson; b. 28 April 1915, d. 29 July 1995), known as Janet, was the President of the South Australian branch of the War Widows' Guild of Australia between 1947 and 1990 and the National President between 1966 and 1977. Mayo was integral to the establishment of the SA branch and was its longest serving President, serving for around 43 years. Following Jessie Vasey's death in 1966, Mayo was elected National President, a position she served concurrently with her state Presidency. She resigned as National President in 1977.²²

During her tenure as national president, the War Widows' Guild of Australia successfully lobbied the Commonwealth to subsidise nursing home costs for war widows and to tie the war widow's pension to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The organisation additionally began to expand its philanthropic efforts beyond its members and war widows generally.²³

For her efforts at the state level, in 1963 the SA branch named its block of flats at 25 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park the 'Janet Mayo Building'.²⁴ In recognition of her national efforts, Mayo was appointed OBE in 1967 and CBE in 1977. Mayo also served in leadership positions for other organisations, including the Good Neighbour Council of South Australia, the South Australian Council of Social Services and the South Australian Film and Television Council.²⁵

Places associated with Janet Mayo include:

- Former War Widows' Guild Site, 141 Fullarton Road, Rose Park (subject of this assessment).
- The Janet Mayo Building, 35 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park.



Janet Mayo Building, 35 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park (1963).

Source: DEW Files, 6 March 2026

Jean Rouse

Jeanie Scriven Rouse (née Blythman; b. 7 October 1910, d. 9 May 1983), known as Jean, was a foundation member of the South Australian branch of the War Widows' Guild and was the 'first war widow in South Australia to pay her shilling to become a member'.²⁶ Rouse had at one point been a weaving instructor for the Guild and served as the minute taker for the national organisation's annual conferences during Janet Mayo's tenure as National President. She is also responsible for weaving fabric for two chairs in Government House.²⁷ The villa behind Vasey Flats is named in her honour. She also served as the Secretary and Chairman [sic] for TOC H (Talbot House).²⁸

Jean Rouse is associated with:

- Jean Rouse Villa, Former War Widows' Guild Site, 141 Fullarton Road, Rose Park (subject of this assessment).

Assessment against Criteria under Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. All Criteria have been assessed using the *Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Places* (approved by the South Australian Heritage Council on 14 March 2024).

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

A place is of importance to the evolution or pattern of South Australia's history if that place is the product of, or is an example of, or was influenced by, or has influenced, or is associated with, or has a symbolic association with, or is the site of – an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life (including values, aspirations, tastes and fashions) which has made a **strong, noticeable or influential contribution** to the **evolution or pattern** of the settlement and development of South Australia.

The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases that have played a significant part in South Australian history.

The former War Widows' Guild site demonstrates the following South Australian historic themes: Building Settlements, Towns and Cities and its subthemes Making Homes for South Australians and Living on the Fringes (including homelessness); and Developing Social and Cultural Life (Supporting and Building Communities and its subtheme Forming community organisations/Developing cultural and social organisations.

The War Widows' Guild of South Australia (hereafter SA Guild) was founded in 1946. It was one of several equivalent Guilds established around Australia between 1945 and 1947. In 1947, these Guilds federated to form a national organisation named the War Widows' Guild of Australia, led by Jessie Vasey, the founder and President of the Victorian Guild. The National Guild and its branches operated as support networks, vocational skills providers and, collectively, a political pressure group. Under Vasey's stewardship, the War Widows' Guild of Australia successfully lobbied the Commonwealth Government to raise the rate of the war widows' pension.

Following National and Victorian President Jessie Vasey's initiatives in Victoria, the SA Guild purchased what would become the first portion of the former War Widows' Guild site at Rose Park in 1957. It did so as part of its program to provide subsidised housing for its aging members. Thereafter, owing to a combination of planning, opportunity and necessity, the site was expanded and developed between 1960 and 1973, primarily to provide more accommodation. During this period, an additional block of flats was also developed at 35 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park. By the end of the 1960s, the Guild was providing flats for up to 40 members across both sites.

In 1965, the SA Guild brought forward its plan to erect an additional two-storey block of flats necessitated by the imminent demolition of its rented headquarters located on North Terrace in Adelaide. The design of the block was accordingly adapted to include an office space and meeting hall. Once completed in 1966, the SA Guild's headquarters operated from the site.

Unlike the interstate Guilds, the SA Guild only played a small role in providing housing for aging war widows in South Australia. In large this was due to a lesser need as the provision of long-term subsidised accommodation for people with various needs was already commonplace in South Australia. Starting in the late nineteenth century, primarily through philanthropic means, subsidised housing was provided for older South Australians (see Comparative Analysis). Later the Government of South Australia, through the actions of the South Australian Housing Trust (SAHT) formed in 1936, assumed primary responsibility for providing housing for South Australian's with more limited means, albeit initially mainly housing for workers. In the 1940s and 1950s, the SAHT expanded its housing activities to also provide homes for war widows and older people. Spurred by the Commonwealth government's 1954 *Aged Persons Homes Act*, which provided funding for the construction of housing for elderly people, other non-governmental organisations (NGOs), such as Aged Cottage Homes (ACH) and the Adelaide Benevolent Society, also provided subsidised housing for those that required it. Given that the SA Guild's program of housing was small in comparison to that provided by the government and other NGOs, it cannot be said to have made a strong, noticeable or influential contribution to the history of housing South Australians.

The site's association with the South Australian branch of the War Widows' Guild is considered under criterion (g).

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

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

The place must demonstrate qualities of cultural significant to South Australia that are rare, uncommon or endangered. Cultural significance may include building class, historic themes, construction techniques, ways of life, social customs, scientific achievement, industrial processes, topographical or natural features, or land use, etc that may no longer be practiced, are in danger of being lost or rarely found in South Australia. This may encompass places that were always rare or places that have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction.

The place must have both cultural significance to South Australia and also possess uncommon, rare or endangered qualities. Places that are few in number and considered at risk of being lost for reasons such as changing land use, industrial processes and lifestyles, and economic pressures may be considered endangered. Places that might become rare or uncommon but are not yet uncommon or rare do not satisfy criterion (b). Determining if a place is uncommon, rare or endangered requires contextual analysis to understand how common the place once was and how many examples still survive. A place may be uncommon, rare or endangered but not culturally significant to South Australia, in this instance the place is considered to not satisfy criterion (b).

The former War Widows' Guild site is associated with the administration of services, facilitation of activities and events for war widows and the provision of social or

subsidised accommodation for its members. While these qualities may be of cultural significance to South Australia, they are not considered to be rare, uncommon or endangered.

The former War Widows' Guild site includes a meeting hall and office space once used by the SA Guild to host meetings, craft lessons, jumbo sales and other events. However, many organisations, including those that support veterans and their families, including war widows, typically have provided and continue to provide access to such facilities. Notably, the Returned & Services League of Australia (SA Branch) and the Legacy Club of South Australian & Broken Hill operate their administrative headquarters from the Torrens Training Depot and Parade Ground (SHP 14617), which has offices and meeting spaces. Both organisations also operate several sub-branches or groups across the state, many of which provide access to offices and/or meeting spaces and accommodate activities and events.

Similarly, there is a long history of philanthropic organisations and government providing social or subsidised housing in South Australia, including specifically for war widows, resulting in thousands of examples including several that are listed as State Heritage Places (see Comparative Analysis). Accordingly, the Former War Widows' Guild Site is not considered to have uncommon, rare or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance to South Australia.

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

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

A place may satisfy criterion (c) if it has the potential to yield information, typically in the form of physical evidence that will contribute to an understanding of South Australia's history. There must be strong existing evidence, in any form, to substantiate that the place is likely to yield information about South Australia's history that is not readily available from other sources and that sufficient integrity remains to yield the information.

The place should provide, or demonstrate a high likelihood of providing, tangible evidence that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The place may be a built structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological, palaeontological, speleological or historic site.

The Former War Widows' Guild Site was established by the gradual acquisition of suburban residential properties fronting Fullarton Road at Rose Park. These properties were established on former farmland, which characterised most of the area until the 1870s. While it is likely there will be archaeological deposits related to the rural and/or residential use of the land, there is no evidence to suggest that any such deposits will contribute anything new or substantial to an understanding of the State's history. Additionally, there is no evidence (documentary, oral history or physical) to suggest that the Former War Widows' Guild Site itself may yield information that will contribute

meaningfully to an understanding of the State's history beyond what is readily available.

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

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

To satisfy criterion (d), a place must belong to a class of place, be an outstanding representative of the class and the class of place must also be of cultural significance to South Australia. To be an outstanding representative of a class of place the place needs to be an exceptional example of the class and/or an influential example of the class and/or a pivotal example of the class. The place must also retain sufficient intactness to represent the class with a high level of integrity.

The class of place should be of cultural significance in a state-wide context. The place should be outstanding when compared with other places in the class.

The Former War Widows' Guild Site is a mixed-use site that combines the classes of place known as 'organisational headquarters' and 'social/subsidised housing complex'. There are numerous examples of both classes of place in South Australia (see Comparative Analysis).

The Former War Widows' Guild Site was developed primarily between the late 1950s and early 1970s owing to a combination of planning, opportunity and necessity. The site comprises elements of an organisational headquarters, including an office space and a meeting hall (1966), and a residential complex, including two preexisting villas and a bungalow, constructed between c.1890s-c.1920s, that were partitioned into flats and two purpose-built blocks of flats erected 1960 and 1966.

The former War Widows' Guild site is not considered to be an outstanding example of these classes of place as it is a hybrid of the two, comprising both bespoke and adapted elements from each to meet the operational needs of the SA Guild. As a hybrid of two classes of place it is not exceptional because it does not display a large number or range of the characteristics considered to be typical of each class in a way that allows the class to be understood or appreciated. It was not influential in defining either class nor does it encapsulate a key evolutionary stage in the development of the classes as clearly or consistently as other places that were bespoke designed or served a specialised function. It therefore does not exhibit the principal characteristics that define these classes of place to an outstanding level when compared to other places of the same kind (see Comparative Analysis).

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

To satisfy criterion (e) the place must demonstrate a high degree of accomplishment that is creative and/or aesthetic and/or technical or is an outstanding representative of particular design characteristics or construction techniques. A place may demonstrate only one or a number of these distinguishers to satisfy the criterion.

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

The Former War Widows' Guild Site comprises two Federation villas erected during the late 1890s, a bungalow erected during the late 1920s - early 1930s and two blocks of flats erected by the SA Guild during the 1960s. There are also various landscape features, including fencing, a stone retaining wall, rose garden, lawned areas and mature trees. While these structures and landscape elements may be described as attractive or well composed, they cannot be considered to be an outstanding representative of any particular style or to demonstrate a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment.

To be considered to represent a style to an outstanding level and/or creative, aesthetic and/or technical accomplishment to a high degree, the elements of the site would need to have received critical recognition or wide public acknowledgment of exceptional merit or be recognised as a breakthrough or to have extended the limits of existing thinking and technology or be recognised as an outstanding example of creative adaptation. Each of the elements are typical of the styles they were designed in and can be found across the state to the same degree of accomplishment, including in the immediate local area (see Comparative Analysis).

As a set piece, the site is an amalgam of attractive disparate elements that do not demonstrate a high degree of aesthetic or creative accomplishment, rather being an expedient solution as the site grew. Accordingly, the site lacks the attributes necessary to be considered an outstanding representative or to achieve a high degree of accomplishment when compared to other places with the same or very similar attributes.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not satisfy** criterion (e).

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

To satisfy criterion (f), there needs to be clear evidence of a cultural or spiritual association between the community or a group within it and the place. The reasons for the attachment may be spiritual, religious, cultural, political or derived from common experience. The attachment must be enduring and strong.

Places that meet this criterion embody meanings and values that are important to a community or cultural group. The place should demonstrate strong and direct associations for a community or group within it that resonates into the broader

community and links to the South Australian identity. The community or group within it must be one that would be broadly recognised by most South Australians as a community or group. The association between the community or group and the place must be enduring, with evidence to demonstrate that there is at least one generation (about 25 years) of association, acknowledging that levels of attachment may fluctuate over time.

The Former War Widows' Guild Site likely has strong associations for some members of the SA Guild and especially for those members who were or are residents (currently four people). However, throughout its history in South Australia, it has remained a relatively small organisation, with its membership likely peaking at no more than 1,300 people, including the Mount Gambier sub-branch. The SA Guild was ultimately wound up in 2025 and its operations were transferred to the Families of Veterans Guild, a subsidiary of Australian War Widows NSW Inc. The SA Guild had two sites in Rose Park, namely 141 Fullarton Road (subject of this assessment) and 35 Hewitt Avenue that collectively provided accommodation for about 40 members at a time.

The SA Guild is not the only organisation in South Australia to support war widows. The Legacy Club of South Australia & Broken Hill also assisted and advocated for war widows, including establishing Legacy Widows' Clubs around South Australia. While it is possible there was overlap between SA Guild membership and Legacy Widows' Clubs, the latter, in comparison to the SA Guild, has a demonstrable presence across the state. This strongly suggests that the SA Guild represented a subset of a larger group of people, i.e. war widows, and thus did not necessarily represent the views of the group collectively in South Australia. Accordingly, it is unlikely that the attachment that the members of the SA Guild may have with the former War Widows Guild site can be said to resonate broadly with the South Australian community or forms a part of South Australia's identity.

The Former War Widows' Guild site may also have associations for local residents who appreciate its architecture and/or history. However, there are multiple State and Local Heritage places in the area and much of Rose Park is protected by a Historical Area Overlay in the Planning and Design Code. There is no evidence to suggest that local residents generally hold this particular site in higher regard than others in the area. Moreover, if there is a special association, it is at the local rather than state level.

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

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

To satisfy criterion (g), the place must have an association that is considered to be special with the life or work of a person, organisation or event. The person, organisation or event must be notable or important to the history of South Australia and the place must be associated with why the person, event, or organisation is notable or important.

There needs to be evidence of a special association between the place and the person, organisation or event that has played an important role in South Australia's history. The association may be demonstrated through the fabric of the place or other evidence, such as archaeological fabric, documentary sources and/or oral history. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why the place being assessed has associations that are significant at the State level.

The former War Widows' Guild site is associated with Australian War Widows (SA) Incorporated (formerly the War Widows' Guild of Australian South Australia Incorporated), Jessie Mary Vasey, Edith Janet Mayo and Jean Rouse.

Australian War Widows (SA) Incorporated

The Former War Widows' Guild Site is associated with Australian War Widows (SA) Incorporated (formerly the War Widows' Guild of Australian South Australia Incorporated).

After Jessie Vasey established the War Widows Craft Guild in Victoria in November 1945, equivalent organisations were established across Australia between 1946 and 1947. The War Widows' Craft Guild of South Australia was founded in October 1946 and became a branch of the War Widows' Guild of Australia when the state Guilds federated in 1947.

The War Widows Guild of Australia is historically important as a national organisation. Under Jessie Vasey's leadership (1947-1966), the Guild succeeded in lobbying the Commonwealth government to raise the rate of the war widows' pension. In doing so, the Guild established itself as an influential political pressure group representing war widows around Australia. Following Vasey's death in 1966, the national Guild continued to advocate for its members and war widows generally.

Although the SA Branch participated in the activities and campaigns of the national Guild, it did so under the direction of the National President and alongside interstate Guilds. It was part of a larger national organisation and thus was not itself chiefly responsible for the above achievements. Instead, they are attributable to the national Guild.

Like other branches throughout Australia, the South Australian branch of the Guild originated as a support network, vocational skills provider and political pressure group. During its first two decades, much of the SA Guild's activities were conducted at various places around Adelaide. Prior to 1967, its headquarters was located first on Flinders Street and then on North Terrace. Meetings and craft lessons were held at various locations, including at the RSL hall on Angas Street (since demolished). Additionally, the SA Guild operated a shop in Unley during the 1950s and early 1960s. Accordingly, much of its formative and historically notable activities, including its contributions to Jessie Vasey's national efforts, were not conducted at the Former War Widows' Guild Site.

Beginning in the late 1950s, the SA Guild initiated a small housing program for aging members. Along with 35 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park, the former War Widows' Guild site primarily demonstrates aspects of the SA Guild's housing program. However, unlike the Guilds interstate, the provision of subsidised housing was a secondary consideration of the SA Guild as the state government had been proactive in providing housing for war widows through the activities of the SAHT, which had been committed to providing accommodation for war widows since at least 1942. Other organisations, such as the Adelaide Benevolent Society and Aged Cottage Homes (ACH), supplemented the SAHT's efforts. The South Australian branch's housing program was thus a relatively minute component of a much larger historical pattern. Ultimately, beyond supporting its limited membership in South Australia, there is little evidence to establish that the SA Guild has made a strong, notable or influential contribution to the course of South Australia's history.

Jessie Vasey

The Former War Widows' Guild Site is only peripherally associated with Jessie Mary Vasey (née Halbert; b. 19 October 1887, d. 22 September 1966), in that one of the buildings was named after her out of respect as the founder of the Guild and for the work she undertook in Victoria and nationally for the Guild. In 1945, Vasey founded the first War Widows' Guild in Victoria (then known as the War Widows' Craft Guild). Interstate branches were subsequently established, and a national organisation that federated the branches was created in 1947. Vasey was elected as the first National President of the War Widows' Guild of Australia, a position she held until her death in 1966.

As a tireless and outspoken advocate for Australian war widows, Vasey is an important figure nationally and in Victoria. Under her stewardship, the War Widows' Guild of Australia successfully lobbied the Commonwealth government to raise the war widows' pension. Vasey also established the organisation as an authoritative voice for war widows. Beginning in the 1950s, she embarked on a housing program for aging war widows in Victoria. Interstate branches followed her initiative, albeit to varying extents.

At the Former War Widows' Guild Site in Rose Park, Vasey House and Vasey Flats are named in Vasey's honour and she attended the latter's launch in 1960. However, Vasey's historical contribution is represented more directly by places in Victoria, being the place where she undertook most of her work for the Guild.

Janet Mayo

Edith Janet Allen Mayo (née Simpson; b. 28 April 1915, d. 29 July 1995), known as Janet, was the President of the South Australian branch of the War Widows' Guild of Australia between 1947 and 1990 and the National President between 1966 and 1977. Mayo was integral to the establishment of the SA branch and was its longest serving President, serving for around 43 years. She also made a notable contribution to the War Widows' Guild of Australia during her tenure as National President, observed by

its successes in lobbying the Commonwealth to subsidise nursing home costs for war widows and to tie the war widow's pension to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

While Mayo was integral to the South Australian branch, her most impactful historical contribution to addressing the plight of war widows was at the national level. The former War Widows' Guild Site at Rose Park only minimally demonstrates Mayo's contribution through the office space and meeting hall in Lorna Hosking House. Although these facilities served as the de facto headquarters for the national organisation, they only did so for a fraction of its history.

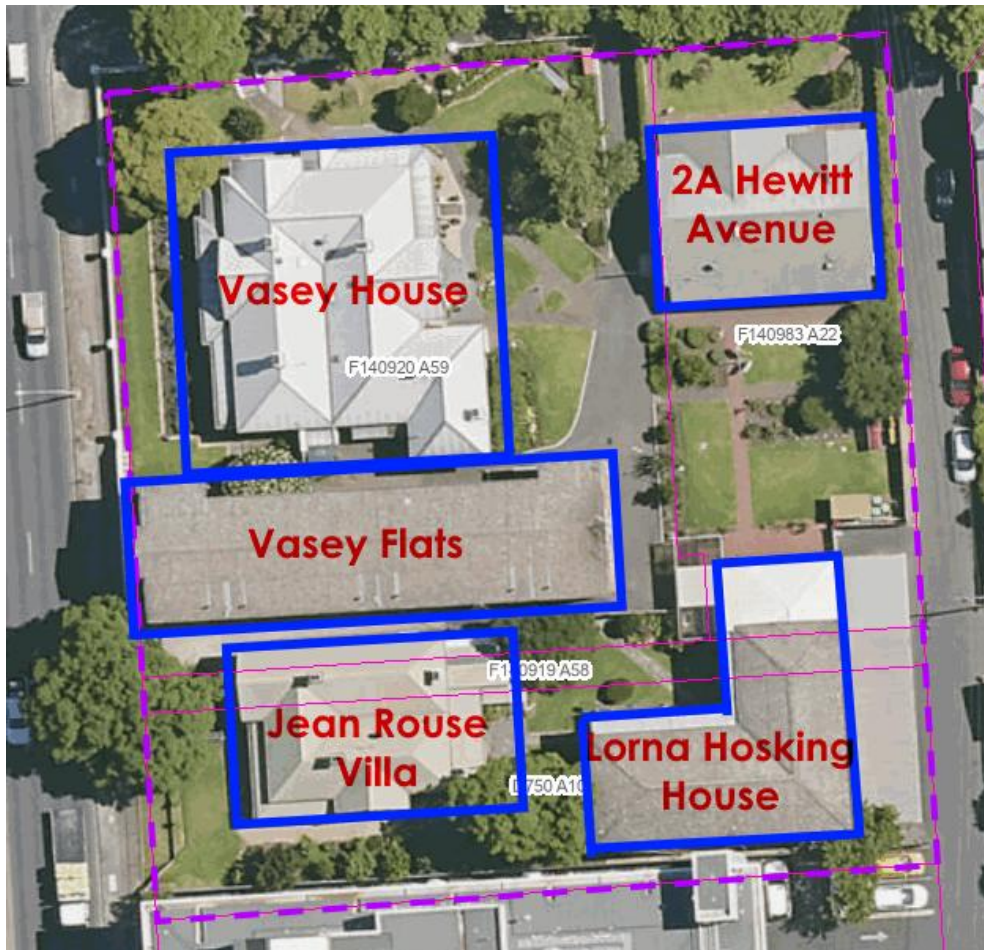
Regarding Mayo's contribution at the state level, there is no doubt that her work benefitted war widows, especially those who were members of the SA Guild. However, the Rose Park site primarily represents the SA Guild's provision of subsidised housing, work that was dwarfed by the work of the SAHT and other NGOs. Moreover, the national Guild's success in achieving subsidies for nursing home placements would more suitably be demonstrated by the nursing homes themselves. There is no evidence that these efforts made a strong, notable or influential contribution to the course of South Australia's history more broadly.

Jean Rouse

Jeanie Scriven Rouse (née Blythman; b. 7 October 1910, d. 9 May 1983), known as Jean, was a notable figure in the South Australian branch of the War Widows' Guild of Australia. Rouse was the first person to pay their membership fee in 1946, served as a weaving instructor for the branch and acted as the minute-taker during Janet Mayo's tenure as National President. Jean Rouse Villa at the former War Widows' Guild Site in Rose Park is named in her honour. Rouse also served as Secretary and Chairman [sic] for TOC H (Talbot House). However, there is no evidence to suggest that these activities made a strong, notable or influential contribution to the course of South Australia's history.

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

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION



Site plan for the former War Widows' Site, 141 Fullarton Road, Rose Park.

The former War Widows' Guild site in Rose Park is a mix-use complex comprising five main standalone structures: Vasey House, Vasey Flats, Jean Rouse Villa, Lorna Hosking House and 2A Hewitt Avenue. Each structure is considered below.

Vasey House



Northern elevation of Vasey House

Source: DEW Files, 6 March 2026

Vasey House is an asymmetrical single-storey Federation villa constructed of coursed sandstone with hipped roofs clad with galvanised corrugated sheet metal.

Additional features include:

- Stuccoed elements, including quoins, Corinthian pilasters, entablature and consoles
- verandah plinth paved with tessellated tiles
- gable projections to the northern, eastern and western elevations
- bay window to eastern elevation
- annex with a hipped roof clad with galvanised corrugated metal at the south-eastern corner
- lean-to at the southern elevation
- return verandah at the north-eastern corner
- verandah along the western elevation
- sash windows
- leadlight windows to northern (front) elevation
- painted cast iron lacing and posts
- three stone chimneys

Vasey Flats



North-western corner of Vasey Flats

Source: DEW Files, 6 March 2026

Vasey Flats is a rectangular two-storey block of flats constructed of red brick with a gable roof clad with what appears to be asbestos sheeting.

Additional features include:

- projecting eaves on the northern and southern elevations
- verandahs and balconies along the northern elevation
- small balcony on the western elevation
- timber-framed panel windows

- timber panel doors with fanlights
- timber soffits
- timber fascias
- external staircases
- cream hit-and-miss brickwork inset into red brick creating latticed effect on projecting sections of northern elevation
- concrete beams on western elevation

Jean Rouse Villa



North-western corner of Jean Rouse Villa

Source: DEW Files, 6 March 2026

Jean Rouse Villa is an asymmetrical single-storey Federation villa constructed of coursed sandstone with three connected hipped roof sections clad with galvanised corrugated sheet metal.

Additional features include:

- stuccoed elements, including quoins and consoles
- painted concrete plinth
- gable projections on the southern and western elevations
- return verandah at the south-western corner
- three stone chimneys
- extensions to eastern elevation
- timber framed sash windows
- timber panel door with fanlight and sidelights
- painted cast iron lacing

Lorna Hosking House



North-western view of Lorna Hosking House

Source: DEW Files, 6 March 2026

Lorna Hosking House is an L-shaped two-storey block of flats constructed of red brick with a hipped roof clad with what appears to be asbestos sheets.

Additional features include:

- verandahs and balconies along northern and western elevations
- built in balcony on eastern elevation
- hall extension at the north-eastern corner
- timber framed doors with fanlights
- timber framed double and triple hung windows with sash and/or panel windows
- office space to north-west of building

2A Hewitt Avenue (Joyce Mobsby Cottage and Joan Hogben Cottage)



Northern elevation of 2A Hewitt Avenue (Joyce Mobsby Cottage and Joan Hogben Cottage)

Source: DEW Files, 6 March 2026

2A Hewitt Avenue is a single-storey asymmetrical bungalow constructed of red brick with a gable roof clad with galvanised corrugated sheet metal. It has been partitioned into two flats.

Additional features include:

- glazed curved brown brick and coursed sandstone on northern elevation
- projecting gable at north-eastern corner
- large projecting gable at north-western corner with timber gable end and louvred vent
- painted concrete plinth
- shallow stone wall with glazed curved brown brick top along verandah with squat, Doric-like columns supporting gable roof
- timber frame sash windows
- timber panel front door with sidelights
- skillion verandah along southern elevation

Landscaping and other site features

- Random rubble stone and cast-iron fence along northern and western boundaries.
- Vegetation, including rose garden, mature trees and lawn areas
- Random rubblestone retaining wall
- Courtyard
- Carpark with cantilevered awning.
- Paving (slate, bitumen, red brick, concrete)

HISTORY

Early Site History

The Kurna people are the traditional owners of the country that forms the Adelaide Plains, foothills and parts of the Mount Lofty Ranges. Prior to colonisation, the Kurna people lived in extended family groups in seasonal camps residing near the coast during the warmer months and inland when it grew colder, including around the 'eastern plain, along Waterfall Gully and in the foothills'. The area towards what is now Kensington Park was a common meeting place and ceremonial site for the Kurna people.²⁹

Colonisation had an immediate and detrimental impact on the Kurna people. Kurna country was surveyed and sold to the newly arrived colonists within 10 years of settlement. Traditional practises like relocating between seasonal camps and firestick farming were hindered or prohibited, while European methods of farming devastated traditional food sources. Many Kurna people were also taken off country and sent to missions at Raukkan/Point McLeay and Point Pearce.³⁰

In 1838, surveyors Colonel William Light and Boyle Travers Finniss created Section 262 as a Country Section of the District of Adelaide.³¹ Around 1839, the South Australian Company acquired ownership of Section 262 and, along with Section 272, subsequently leased it to William Prescott, who established a mixed farm specialising in wheat and dairying. The section was popularly known as 'Prescott's Section'.³²

Section 262 was first planned as a township in 1878. Named 'Rose Park' after John Rose, then the Chairman of the South Australian Company, the township was subdivided into 267 allotments.³³ Land agents promoted the area's 'beauty' and proximity to the city, with one advertisement declaring that Rose Park was 'second to none as a suburb' and was where a 'country residence may be secured within an easy walking distance from all places of business'.³⁴ Further subdivisions occurred in 1883, 1889 and 1909 and social amenities were established in the area during this period, including a school, churches and Queen's Home, a maternity hospital (SHP 12728).³⁵ Helped in part by the suburb's adjacency to the Park Lands and the establishment of the tramline, the population flourished between the 1880s and 1920s and many villas and cottages were erected.³⁶

After passing through several owners since 1883, Lot 8 and part of Lot 9 were purchased by prominent businessman Richard Verco and his wife Rebecca Verco in 1897, noting that the transfer was made under Rebecca's name.³⁷ A year later, a new land title was created for the Vercos that integrated Lot 7.³⁸ The large villa on the corner of Hewitt Avenue and what is now Fullarton Road was erected around this time.³⁹ The Vercos remained at the villa until the mid-1920s, after which it was sold to new owners and changed hands over the next few decades.⁴⁰ In 1929, a subdivision towards the east of the site was sold, and a bungalow was erected at the new property sometime thereafter.⁴¹

In 1895, John William Fisher purchased the adjacent site on Fullarton Road from Thomas Rhodes. The site comprised Lot 10 and a portion of Lot 9, each with their own title. Either Rhodes or Fisher may have erected the villa, although the latter is likely. Fisher owned the property until 1920,⁴² and the site went on to have three separate owners from then until the early 1960s.⁴³

Origins of the War Widows' Guild of Australia

In November 1945, Jessie Vasey founded the War Widows' Craft Guild in Victoria. Vasey was motivated to establish the organisation after her husband, Major General George Alan Vasey, was killed in a plane crash during the Second World War. Prior to his death, both he and Jessie were supportive of veterans and war widows. Afterwards, Jessie strove to support and advocate for women like herself who had lost their husbands resulting from service during the war.⁴⁴

The Guild was intended to provide an avenue for war widows to unite and support each other. This aspect was reflected by the Guild's eventual choice of motto, borrowed from King George VI's 1941 Christmas message:

We all belong to each other. We all need each other. It is in serving each other and in sacrificing for our common good that we are finding our true life.⁴⁵

Although initially limited to widows whose husbands died as a result of the Second World War, membership was extended to those who lost their husbands because of the First World War (and later, other conflicts).⁴⁶ Membership was also open to widows whose husbands died after these conflicts, so long as their deaths were service-related.

The 'self-help' ideal guided the Guild. It sought to teach its members vocational skills which they could then deploy to increase their financial independence. Towards this end, the Guild conducted craft lessons, teaching members handcrafts such as weaving. Once trained, it was hoped that members could then sell their goods through the Guild to supplement their income, typically a Commonwealth war widows' pension.⁴⁷ The Guild was able to secure funding for its trainees through the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme.⁴⁸

Importantly, Vasey also established the Guild as a political pressure group. Vasey and her supporters believed that the rate of the war widow's pension was inadequate. Indeed, the Guild's focus on vocational skills was partly motivated to offset the pension's shortcomings. Through the Guild, Vasey sought to lobby the Commonwealth government to treat the pension as a compensation payment, not as welfare, and to accordingly raise the rate so that the women would not be pauperised.⁴⁹

Vasey and other members moved swiftly to encourage the establishment of War Widows' Guilds across Australia. Between June 1946 and August 1947, Guilds were established in every state.⁵⁰ In November 1947, a national conference was held, during which the state Guilds opted to federate and create the War Widows' Guild

of Australia as a national organisation. Vasey was elected President, a position she held concurrently with her state presidency in Victoria.⁵¹

As National and Victorian President, Vasey was a tireless and outspoken advocate for war widows in Australia. Most notably, Vasey successfully led the Guild in its campaign to raise the rate of the Commonwealth's war widows' pension. In the process, she established the Guild's status as an authoritative voice representing war widows in Australia.⁵²

Founding the War Widows' Guild of Australia South Australia

With Vasey's assistance, the War Widows' Craft Guild of South Australia was established in October 1946 and officially launched on 21 November at the Adelaide Town Hall. In attendance were John McLeay, the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, and Eric Millhouse, the Federal and State President of the Returned & Services League. Lloyd Dumas, the Managing Director of the *Advertiser*, promoted the event and helped raise £3,000 in donations.⁵³

Mary Walker and Mary Jose briefly served as Presidents before Janet Mayo was elected to the position in April 1947.⁵⁴ By this point, the South Australian Guild had grown to around 400 members, representing about half of all war widows in South Australia.⁵⁵ Along with the other state Guilds, South Australia became a branch of the national organisation in November that year. It is likely around this time that the branch dropped 'Craft' from its name to become the War Widows' Guild of Australia South Australia.

Like other branches, the South Australian branch originated as a support network, vocational skills provider and political pressure group. In 1951 Janet Mayo articulated the Guild's objectives as:

- To assist the morale of war widows
- To teach members some way of earning extra money
- To get a better pension[.]⁵⁶

Accordingly, the branch held regular meetings for members, taught craft lessons through the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme and participated in the national campaign to raise the rate of the war widows' pension.⁵⁷

During the 1940s and 1960s, the branch operated from various locations throughout Adelaide. In early 1947, the branch established an office at 89 Flinders Street.⁵⁸ Around 1960, it relocated to 217 North Terrace, which it described in 1961 as a 'very satisfactory headquarters'.⁵⁹ In addition to its office spaces, the Guild held meetings at the RSL hall on Angas Street,⁶⁰ established a Glenelg sub-branch in 1960 and operated a shop in Unley during the 1950s and early 1960s.⁶¹ While the branch sought to expand into country regions, it only succeeded in opening a sub-branch in Mount Gambier.⁶²

Housing for Elderly War Widows

Beginning in the early 1950s, Jessie Vasey's focus turned to housing elderly war widows in semi-communal settings, culminating in the acquisition and construction of various buildings around Melbourne. Her housing initiative was first conducted directly through the Victorian branch and from 1959 through its trust, the Vasey Housing Auxiliary (War Widows' Guild) Limited.⁶³

Vasey's initial approach was to acquire existing dwellings and convert them into flats,⁶⁴ such as 'Killena', a late Victorian villa in Hawthorn, Victoria.⁶⁵ However, by 1952 she began to favour constructing entirely new blocks of flats.⁶⁶ Exemplifying this shift, flats were built at the property immediately adjacent to Killena.⁶⁷ Following the assent of the Commonwealth's *Aged Persons Homes Act* in 1954, which allocated matched funding to non-governmental and non-profit organisations to erect housing for elderly people (it later increased the funding to two-thirds of the total cost), the branch applied and received funds to erect more flats.⁶⁸ Prospective residents could make a 'donation', essentially a 'kind of rental in advance lump sum', to receive a life-interest in one of the flats, enabling continuous occupancy so long as they were capable of independent living. In a bid to attract funding, the flats were also available to relatives of deceased veterans and non-members.⁶⁹

Other state branches followed Vasey's lead, albeit in different ways. The New South Wales branch was particularly active in constructing flats, most of which were erected around greater Sydney.⁷⁰ Unlike the Victorian branch, the NSW branch's flats were exclusively for members and were at first provided on a standard rental basis. Vasey also established a Vasey Housing Auxiliary in NSW, which operated as a separate organisation and erected its own flats.⁷¹ An equivalent organisation was established in Queensland.⁷²

In South Australia, the need to provide housing for elderly war widows was less pressing than it was interstate, a fact acknowledged by Janet Mayo.⁷³ Beginning in the early 1940s, the state government allocated housing for war widows through the South Australian Housing Trust (SAHT), a commitment supported by Legacy.⁷⁴ Similarly, in the early 1950s the SAHT started to provide 'cottage flats' for elderly pensioners.⁷⁵ Several philanthropic organisations supplemented the SAHT's role by providing long-term accommodation for older people, including established organisations like the Adelaide Benevolent Society and new ones like Aged Cottage Homes, founded by Keith Wilson in 1952.⁷⁶ Being non-governmental and non-profit, such organisations were eligible and may have received Commonwealth funding to erect housing via the *Aged Persons Homes Act*. Accordingly, both war widows and older South Australian were already being catered for.

The War Widows' Guild at Rose Park

Despite the availability of housing through other means, the South Australian branch of the Guild embarked on its own housing program in the mid-1950s.⁷⁷ This decision followed Vasey's initiative in Victoria and may have been primarily about creating or

maintaining communal bonds. In South Australia, residents had to be members of the Guild, aged 60 or over, capable of independent living and able to pay a donation in return for a life-interest in a flat.⁷⁸

In 1957, the branch directed senior members Lorna Hosking and Joyce Mobsby to attend the auction for 2 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park, and make an offer up to £10,000.⁷⁹ Their £9,500 bid was successful and on 8 November 1957 the title was officially transferred to the branch,⁸⁰ which had by now been incorporated to protect and manage its impending real estate assets (becoming the War Widows' Guild of Australia South Australia Incorporated).⁸¹ At some point thereafter, the villa was internally partitioned into six flats and named Vasey House. One of the flats was reserved as short-term accommodation for visiting members.⁸²

Financed by a combination of Commonwealth funds, member contributions and other donations, the branch also decided to erect a block of flats to the rear of Vasey House. Architects Gordon Laybourne Smith and Roy Wilson were hired and went on to design a two-storey block of 11 flats. A builder named 'Mr Bruce' was contracted to construct the block, which was finished no later than September 1960.⁸³ On completion, the branch's leadership encouraged members to inspect the new flats and declared they 'refused to believe that anywhere in the State are there more delightful little homes than these ones'.⁸⁴

On 27 October 1960, the branch held an 'opening ceremony' for the flats. National President Jessie Vasey and the Federal Honorary Secretary, 'Mrs Sparks', attended the event. Vasey addressed the crowd and declared the flats open, which had been named in her honour as Vasey Flats.⁸⁵ The Mayor of Burnside and Director of Social Services both gave speeches and the Women's Auxiliary of Central Command (the South Australian branch of the Australian Army) donated £280 to the branch.⁸⁶ Leadership described the event as a 'great success' and declared that the afternoon was 'altogether one of the happiest in the history of the Guild in South Australia'.⁸⁷

Just over 12 months later, the branch purchased 35 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park.⁸⁸ Before being able to develop the site, the branch had to first pay off the mortgage on it.⁸⁹ In March 1963, Guild leadership announced that it intended to erect flats on the site and in September advised that this would be in the form of a two-storey block comprising 14 flats.⁹⁰ Named the Janet Mayo Building in honour of the State President, the block was completed and occupied no later than June 1964.⁹¹ There were now 35 'senior members comfortably established' across the branch's 'houses and flats'.⁹²

In 1963, the Guild received an anonymous £3,000 donation which enabled it to acquire the property immediately to the south of 2 Hewitt Avenue, then 7 Victoria Avenue and now 141 Fullarton Road.⁹³ The property comprised two titles and included the villa likely erected by John William Fisher, which had at some point been partitioned into two flats.⁹⁴ Its acquisition was fortuitous rather than part of a masterplan. Instead, the property had been unexpectedly placed on the market that year and branch leadership 'felt the house and land at No. 7 was such a suitable extension to Vasey House' that it 'could not possibly turn it down'. Accordingly, 'with

the same faith' with which the branch 'bought Vasey House', it 'paid a deposit to secure No. 7'.⁹⁵ Leadership further announced that this 'fine block of land will comfortably accommodate another building', which it would soon consider.⁹⁶ The villa was later named Jean Rouse Villa, after the 'first war widow in South Australia to pay her shilling to become a member'.⁹⁷

Amid this wave of activity, the branch sought to remind its members that this was not its chief purpose. In the 18th Annual Report presented in June 1964, the branch noted that:

Although this housing business has become the spectacular part of our work, it by no means supersedes the Guild's original aim of comfort and encouragement to our members to help themselves. We help them do this by keeping our position in the [Commonwealth] government's mind which results in constant revision of the War Widows' Pension.⁹⁸

This reminder was important because only a small portion of the branch's members were residents of these flats. Although parts of the site were used for other purposes, like hosting craft sales,⁹⁹ the branch had made it clear that it was still devoted to the interests of its larger membership base.

The branch intended to withhold from commencing further development until at least 1966, but in 1965 was forced to reconsider when it received a 'notice to quit' its head office located at 217 North Terrace, Adelaide.¹⁰⁰ The proprietor gave the branch a month to vacate the premises, which was to be demolished and replaced by a multistorey carpark for retailer John Martin's.¹⁰¹ In response, the branch announced that it would relocate its office to a new building at the rear of 141 Fullarton Road. Leadership framed the relocation as unexpectedly fulfilling a longtime desire to move to the Rose Park site.¹⁰²

As the branch had already intended to erect another block of flats on the site, it instructed its architect, presumably still Gordon Laybourne Smith, to 'include an office and meeting room' in the design.¹⁰³ Tenders were called in late 1965 and construction was estimated to be completed around April or May 1966.¹⁰⁴ In the interim, the branch operated its office from 'Flat 3' at 2 Hewitt Avenue.¹⁰⁵ This was a better outcome than operating from the laundry in Vasey Flats, where the branch first believed it would have to relocate.¹⁰⁶

The block of flats was completed by June 1966 and was named Lorna Hosking House, after the branch's Senior Vice-President.¹⁰⁷ By this time, one of the flats was occupied and the 'new and beautiful' meeting room had been used by members. The branch hoped it would be further used for occasions like 'card parties' and 'handicraft classes', as well as 'ordinary general meetings'.¹⁰⁸ The official opening was held on 17 November 1966, which coincided with the '21st Anniversary of the Founding of the Guild'.¹⁰⁹ By mid-1967, the 'garden and lawns' around Lorna Hosking House had been established and the flats were occupied.¹¹⁰ The branch was now 'providing

accommodation for 40 war widows' and its real estate assets totalled almost £300,000.¹¹¹

Although the office and meeting room in Lorna Hosking House had been built for the South Australian branch's use, they became the de facto headquarters of the National organisation. Six days after Vasey's death on 22 September 1966, the branch presidents across Australia elected Janet Mayo as National President.¹¹² Mayo was also the President of the South Australian branch and thus remained based at the Rose Park office. Marking the shift from Victoria to South Australia, the first national conference held outside of Melbourne took place in Adelaide in October 1967. All subsequent conferences during Mayo's tenure took place biennially in Adelaide.¹¹³

In 1973, the branch purchased 2A Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park.¹¹⁴ The property was immediately to the east of Vasey House and contained the bungalow erected around 1929. Although the property's acquisition would go on to form the square shape of the overall site, it was left unaltered for years and was initially leased on a commercial basis.¹¹⁵ It was the branch's last major property acquisition, although it did continue to purchase bed space in nursing homes for members that could no longer live independently.¹¹⁶

Subsequent History

Under Janet Mayo's stewardship as National President, the War Widows' Guild of Australia had multiple successes during the late 1960s and 1970s. Notably, the organisation successfully lobbied the Commonwealth to subsidise nursing home costs for war widows and to tie the war widows' pension to the Consumer Price Index (CPI). It also began to expand its philanthropic efforts beyond its members and war widows generally.¹¹⁷ Mayo stood down as National President in 1977 and was replaced by the Gwen Forsyth, the Western Australian branch President.¹¹⁸ Mayo retained her role as State President, a position she held until 1990.¹¹⁹

By the mid-1980s, the South Australian branch had 37 flats and its real estate assets were valued at well over \$1,000,000. The branch had no intention to acquire further property or construct additional flats, believing that its stock satisfied its needs.¹²⁰ It did, however, extend the meeting room in Lorna Hosking House, which was officially opened by Lieutenant General Sir Donald Dunstan in 1988.¹²¹ Around this time, the branch contracted Aged Cottage Homes to maintain its properties. The branch 'anticipated' it would transfer the properties to Aged Cottage Homes if it became unable to manage them.¹²² In 2005, the branch transferred ownership of its Rose Park properties to the organisation, now known as ACH Group.¹²³

Despite the change in ownership, the branch continued to operate from Lorna Hosking House for the next two decades and members continued to reside at both Rose Park sites. At some point, 2A Hewitt Avenue was partitioned into two flats, named Joyce Mobsby Cottage and Joan Hogben Cottage, and fully integrated into the site.

In 2020, the national organisation renamed itself Australian War Widows Incorporated, and the South Australian branch followed suit shortly after, rebranding as Australian

War Widows (SA) Incorporated.¹²⁴ During the first half of the 2020s, the legacy of the Guild and war widows generally received recognition around Australia. In 2021, South Australian politician Frances Bedford acknowledged the Guild during an address in the House of Assembly.¹²⁵ On 19 October 2022, New South Wales and Queensland held their first annual War Widows Day, the date chosen being Jessie Vasey's birthday. South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory followed in 2023 and Victoria and the Northern Territory in 2024.¹²⁶

In December 2025, Australian War Widows (SA) Incorporated voluntarily wound down and transferred its operations to the Families of Veterans Guild, a subsidiary of Australian War Widows NSW Inc.¹²⁷ The same month, the ACH Group lodged a Development Application to construct two large residential towers on the site, necessarily entailing the demolition of several structures. The application proposes to retain and restore most of Vasey House, which has been a Local Heritage Place since 2005.¹²⁸ As of early 2026, only a few members remain at the Fullarton Road site. ACH will rehouse remaining residents and construct a new meeting room for local members of the Families of Veterans Guild.

Chronology

Year Event

- 1897 19 October: Jessie Vasey (née Halbert) is born in Roma, Queensland.
- 1914-1918 Australia is involved in the First World War. Over 5,600 South Australians are killed during the conflict.
- 1915 28 April: Janet Mayo (née Simpson) is born in Adelaide.
- 1939-1945 Australia is involved in the Second World War. Over 3,300 South Australians are killed during the conflict.
- 1942 5 November: The *Housing Improvement Act Amendment Act, 1942* is assented in South Australia. The Act introduces specific provisions for war widows to ensure that those in need can access affordable housing.
- 1944 March: the Commonwealth Reconstruction Training Scheme is established. The scheme provides funding for vocational training programs for at veterans, former service people and war widows.
- 1945 November: Jessie Vasey establishes the War Widows' Craft Guild in Victoria.**
- 1946 June: The New South Wales branch of the Guild is established.**
October: The South Australian branch of the Guild is established, then called the War Widows' Craft Guild of South Australia.
21 November: the SA Branch is officially launched during an event held at the Adelaide Town Hall. Membership numbers 264.
 The SA branch establishes its first headquarters at 'Kingsway House', 89 Flinders Street, Adelaide.
 November: the Western Australian branch of the Guild is established.

- 1947 January: Janet Mayo is elected President of the SA Branch.**
 29 January: The Tasmanian branch of the Guild is established.
 August: the Queensland branch of the Guild is established.
 November: the state branches attend a national conference. The War Widows' Guild becomes a 'Federal Body', and Jessie Vasey is elected as President.
 SA branch membership grows to around 400, representing about 50% of war widows in the state.
 As the national Guild removes 'Craft' from the name, the SA branch follows around this time.
- 1950-1953 Australia is involved in the Korean War. 12 South Australians are killed during the conflict.
- 1951 April: the Guild begins operating in Canberra as a subbranch of the NSW branch.
 SA branch membership totals almost 900.
 Jessie Vasey's focus shifts to housing elderly war widows. The Victorian branch begins acquiring properties and converting preexisting structures into flats.
- 1952 Aged Cottage Homes (ACH) is incorporated in South Australia, a philanthropic organisation founded by Sir Keith Wilson to provide affordable housing for elderly people.
 Premier Thomas Playford informs the War Widows Guild Inc. that the South Australian Housing Trust has provisions to secure housing for war widows.
- 1954 18 November: the Commonwealth's *Aged Persons Homes Act* is assented. The Act authorises the Commonwealth to match the funds put up by voluntary organisations to build houses for the elderly.
 Jessie Vasey applies for and receives funding through the *Aged Persons Homes Act* to construct new flats for aging war widows.
- c.1955 The SA branch opens a store at 198 Unley Road, Unley to sell craft goods made by members.
- 1957** The SA branch of the Guild incorporates as the War Widows' Guild of Australia South Australia Incorporated.
The SA branch purchases 2 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park for £9,500.
 22 October: the *Aged Persons Homes Act* is amended to increase the Commonwealth's contribution from half the cost of new buildings to two-thirds.
8 November: 2 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park is officially transferred to the SA Branch.
- 1957-1960 The dwelling at 2 Hewitt Avenue is named Vasey House, after national founder and President Jessie Vasey. The house is converted into 6 flats.**

- 1959 The Vasey Housing Auxiliary (War Widows' Guild) Limited is established as a trust to manage the Victorian branch's growing property portfolio. Interstate branches (NSW and Queensland) went on to establish their own Vasey Housing Authorities, although the SA branch does not appear to have followed suit and retained direct ownership over its properties.
- c.1959 The SA branch rents office space at 217 North Terrace, Adelaide (also listed as 217 Charles Street, Adelaide), where it relocates its headquarters.
- 1960s- Legacy Widows' Clubs are established across South Australia, including in
1990s Brighton, Gawler, Adelaide, Port Lincoln, the Yorke Peninsula, Victor Harbor, Tailem Bend, Port Adelaide, Burnside, Tea Tree Gulley, Millicent and many other places.
- 1960 27 October: a block of flats at the rear of Vasey House, named the Vasey Flats, are officially opened at the site.**
- 1961 7 December: 35 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park is officially transferred to the SA Branch.
- 1962 The SA Branch closes its shop on Unley Road.
- 1962- Australia is involved in the War in Vietnam. 58 South Australians are killed
1975 during the conflict.
- 1963 October: the SA branch purchases 7 Victoria Avenue (now 141 Fullarton Road), Rose Park. The site comprises two titles and is immediately adjacent to Vasey House and the Vasey Flats, thus effectively extending the site.**
- 1964 The SA branch opens a new block of flats at 35 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park, which it names the Janet Mayo Building.
- 1965 The SA branch relocates its headquarters from North Terrace to the Rose Park site, temporarily in the Vasey Flats.**
The SA branch has about 1,300 members.
- 1966 22 October: Jessie Vasey dies.**
Construction of Lorna Hosking House is completed by June.
16 November: Lorna Hosking House is officially opened.
Janet Mayo is elected as the National President of the War Widows' Guild. She continues to serve as the SA Branch's President.
SA branch membership is around 1,200.
- 1967 Janet Mayo is appointed an Order of the British Empire (OBE).
- 1973 9 August: 2A Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park is officially transferred to the SA Branch.**
- 1977 October: Janet Mayo resigns as National President but remains President of the SA branch. Gwen Forsyth, the President of the WA branch, is elected as her successor.
Janey Mayo is appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE).

c.1980s The SA Branch contracts Aged Cottage Homes (ACH) to maintain its properties. By the mid-1980s, it was expected that the SA Branch would transfer its properties to ACH if and when it could no longer manage them.

1982 December: South Coast Legacy Widows Club is established at Victor Harbor.

1985 National membership of the Guild totals 25,000.

1988 The meeting room and two flats at 141 Fullarton Road, Rose Park are extended. They are officially opened during a ceremony attended Lieutenant General Sir Donald Dunstan.

1990 December: Janet Mayo resigns as State President.

1995 29 July: Janet Mayo dies.

2001-2021 Australia participates in the War in Afghanistan. Five South Australians are killed during the conflict.

2003-2013 Australia participates in the Iraq War. No South Australians are killed during the conflict.

2005 The Australian War Widows' Guild South Australian Incorporated transfers its property assets to the ACH Group, including the Rose Park sites on Fullarton Road and Hewitt Avenue.

2010 Retired General Peter Cosgrove states there are 100,000 war widows across Australia.

2020 7 July: the Australian War Widows' Guild Incorporated changes its name to Australian War Widows Incorporated. The SA Branch becomes Australian War Widows (SA) Incorporated.

2022 19 October: The first War Widows Day is officially celebrated in New South Wales and Queensland.

2023 19 October: official celebrations of War Widows Day extend to South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory.

2024 19 October: official celebrations of War Widows Day extend to Victoria and the Northern Territory.

2025 December: Australian War Widows (SA) Incorporated is voluntarily wound down and its operations are transferred to the Families of Veterans Guild, a subsidiary of Australian War Widows NSW Inc.

There are around 31,000 war widows and widowers in Australia.

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SITE RECORD

NAME:	Former War Widows' Site		PLACE NO.:	26632
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Mixed-use complex comprising residential accommodation, office and meeting hall.			
HISTORIC THEME/S	<p>4: Building Settlements, Towns and Cities</p> <p>4.8: Making Homes for South Australians</p> <p>4.9: Living on the Fringes (including homelessness)</p> <p>6: Developing Social and Cultural Life (Supporting and Building Communities)</p> <p>6.4: Forming community organisations/Developing cultural and social organisations</p>			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	<p>Vasey House, c.1900</p> <p>Jean Rouse Villa, c.1900</p> <p>2A Hewitt Avenue, c.1920s</p> <p>Vasey Flats, c.1959-1960</p> <p>Lorna Hosking House, 1965-1966</p>			
REGISTER STATUS:	<p>Nominated: 13 January 2026</p> <p>[Date of Provisional Entry/Rejection]</p>			
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS:	House and Fence – Vasey (Vasey House)			
CURRENT USE:	Flats, c.1957 -			
PREVIOUS USE(S):	<p>Australian War Widows (SA) Inc. Site, 1957-2025</p> <p>Private residencies, c.1880s – 1960s</p>			
ARCHITECT:	Gordon Laybourne Smith and Roy Wilson: Vasey Flats, 1960 (confirmed), and Lorna Hosking House, c.1965 (likely)			
BUILDER:	'Mr. Bruce' (Vasey Flats, 1960)			
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	City of Burnside			
LOCATION:	Street	141 Fullarton Road		
	Address.:	Rose Park, SA 5067		
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title	CT 5740/859 F140920 A59		
	Reference:	CT 5740/871 F140983 A22		
		CT 5800/898 F140919 A58		
		CT 5838/523 D750 A10		
	Hundred:	Adelaide		

PHOTOS

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632

*All images taken by DEW staff on 6 March 2026 unless otherwise specified.



Site plan of Former War Widows' Guild Site.



Northern elevation of Vasey House.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Main entrance at northern elevation of Vasey House showing name plate.



Name plate on quoins on northern elevation of Vasey House.



Western elevation of Vasey House.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Eastern elevation of Vasey House.



Portion of southern elevation of Vasey House.

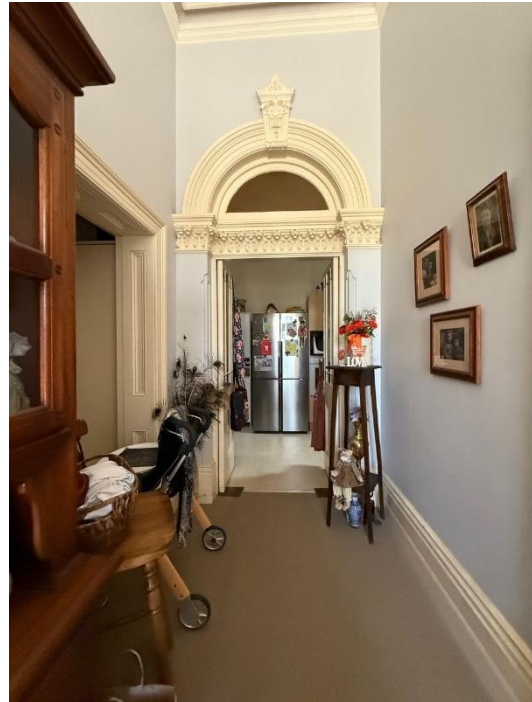
NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Interior of Vasey House (northern half)

Source: DASH Architects



Interior of Vasey House (northern half)

Source: DASH Architects



Interior of Vasey House (northern half)

Source: DASH Architects

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Interior of Vasey House (southern half)



Interior of Vasey House (southern half)



Interior of Vasey House (southern half)



Interior of Vasey House (southern half)

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Verandah western elevation of Vasey House, note tessellated tiles.



Cast iron railing along northern verandah fascia of Vasey House.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Western elevation of Vasey Flats showing portion of stone fence.



Portion of northern elevation of Vasey Flats.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

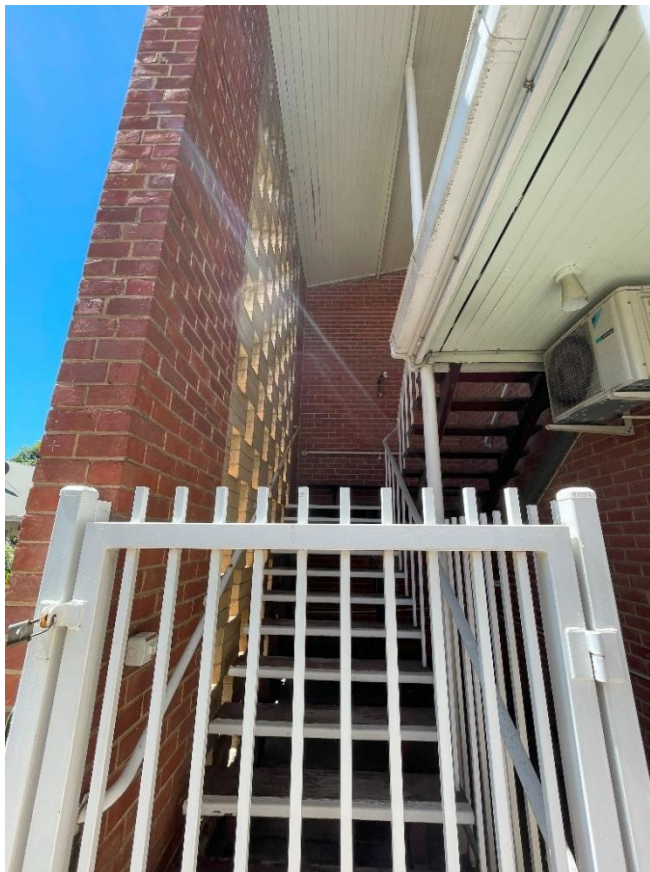
PLACE NO.: 26632



Protruding stairwell with hit and miss cream brick detailing to northern elevation of Vasey Flats (west).



Protruding stairwell with hit and miss cream brick on northern elevation of Vasey Flats (east).



Interior view of stairwell on northern elevation of Vasey Flats (east).

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Portions of the southern elevation of Vasey Flats and northern elevation of Jean Rouse Villa.



Eastern elevation of Vasey Flats.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Western elevation of Jean Rouse Villa.



Eastern elevation of Jean Rouse Villa.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Portion of northern elevation of Jean Rouse Villa.



Portion of southern elevation of Jean Rouse Villa.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



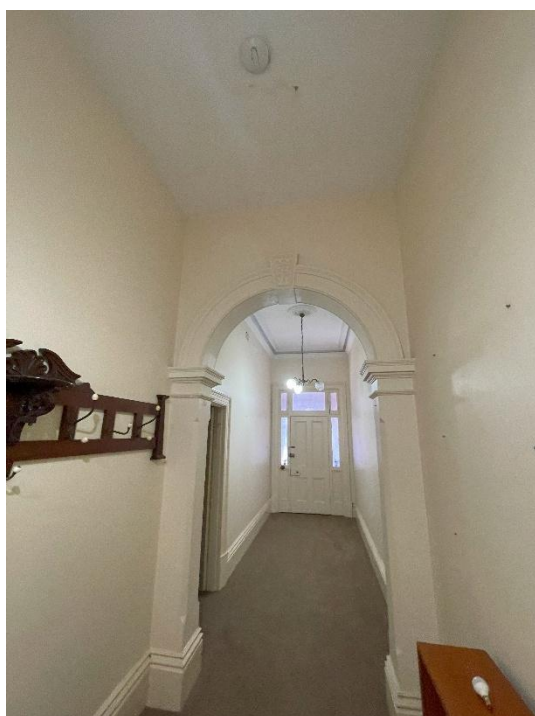
Interior of Jean Rouse Villa.



Interior of Jean Rouse Villa.



Interior of Jean Rouse Villa.



Interior of Jean Rouse Villa.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Portion of western elevation of Lorna Hosking House.



Portion of northern elevation of Lorna Hosking House.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Portion of western elevation of Lorna Hosking House (showing meeting hall).



Portion of northern elevation of Lorna Hosking House.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Eastern elevation of Lorna Hosking House, showing carport.



Plaque commemorating the official opening of the meeting room extension.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Meeting room in Lorna Hosking House looking north.



Office in Lorna Hosking House.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Interior of a flat in Lorna Hosking House.



Interior of a flat in Lorna Hosking House.



Interior of a flat in Lorna Hosking House.



Interior of a flat in Lorna Hosking House.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Portion of northern elevation of 2A Hewitt Avenue.



Southern elevation of 2A Hewitt Avenue.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Portion of western elevation of 2A Hewitt Avenue.



Portion of eastern elevation of 2A Hewitt Avenue.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

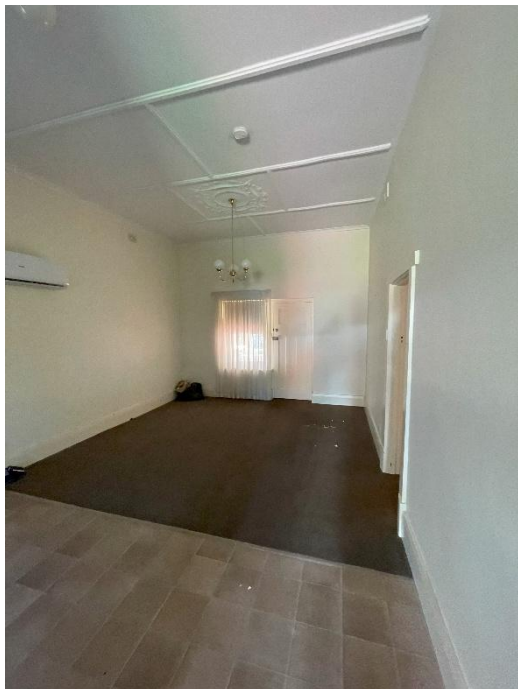
PLACE NO.: 26632



Nameplate for Flat 1 of 2A Hewitt Avenue.



Nameplate for Flat 2 of 2A Hewitt Avenue.



Interior of 2A Hewitt Avenue.



Interior of 2A Hewitt Avenue.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

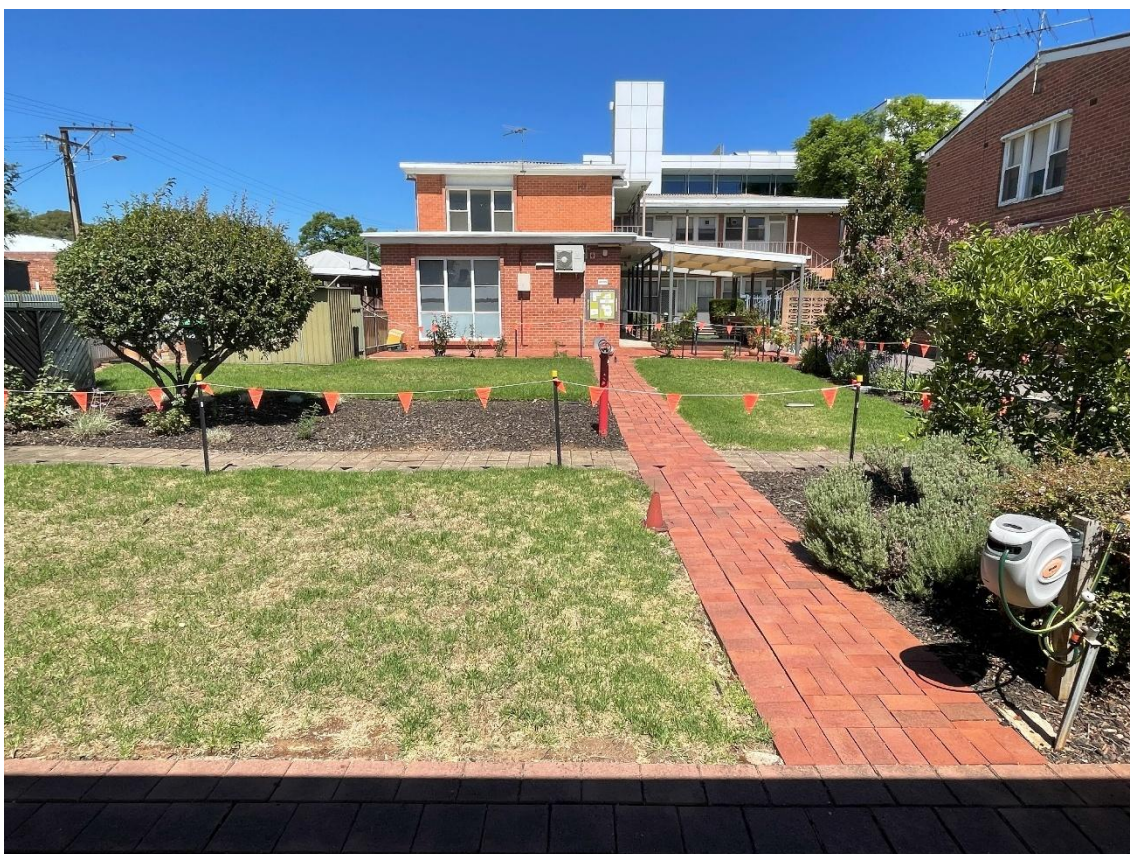
PLACE NO.: 26632



Interior of 2A Hewitt Avenue.



Interior of 2A Hewitt Avenue.



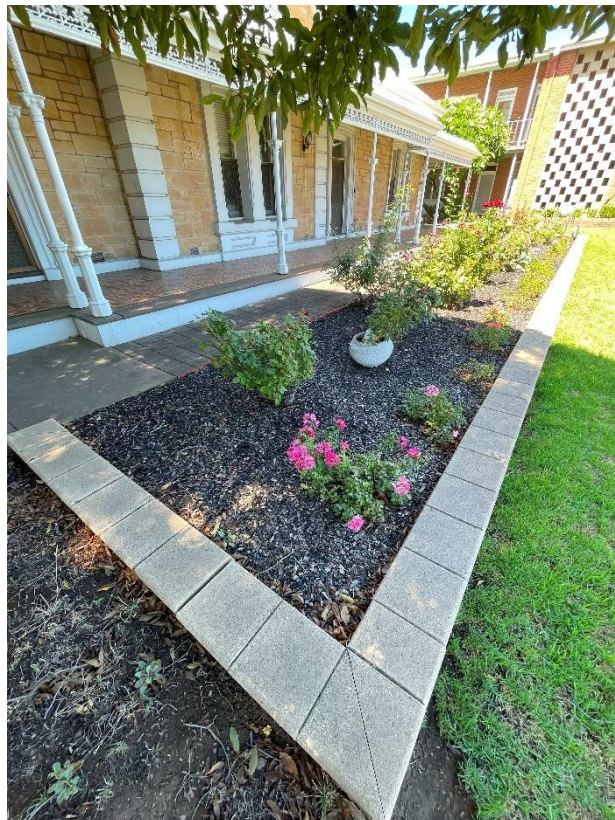
Lawned area to the east of the site.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Lawned area to the north of the site (adjacent to Vasey House).



Rose garden to the north-west of the site (adjacent to Vasey House).

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



North-western corner of the site showing masonry and cast-iron fence and mature tree.



Slate steps to the west of the site (adjacent to Jean Rouse Villa).

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



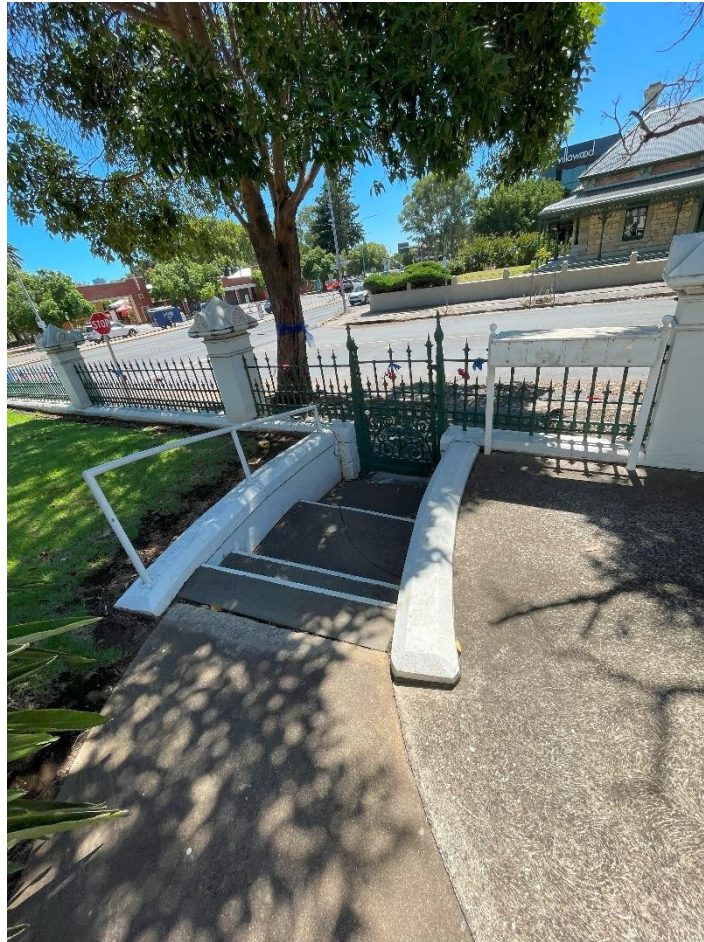
Portion of masonry retaining wall to the west of the site (adjacent to Jean Rouse Villa).



Front garden of 2A Hewitt Avenue.

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Slate steps and cast-iron gate to the north of the site (adjacent to Vasey House).

SITE PLAN

NAME: Former War Widows' Guild Site

PLACE NO.: 26632



Former War Widows' Guild Site, 141 Fullarton Road, Rose Park (CT 5740/859 F140920 A59; CT 5740/871 F140983 A22; CT 5800/898 F140919 A58; CT 5838/523 D750 A10; Hundred of Adelaide).

Source: ENV Maps

N ↑

LEGEND

 Parcel boundaries

Table of Changes

Date	Action	Officer
Date change made	This document was last updated to record the date the SAHC provisionally entered/rejected the place on page [add page number of the site record table]	Who made the change

¹ Susan Marsden, *Business, Charity and Sentiment: The South Australian Housing Trust 1936-1986*, reprint edition (Untapped, 2023), pp.11-20, esp. p16; Jude Elton, 'Adelaide Workers' Homes Inc.', SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia.

<https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/organisations/adelaide-workers-homes-inc/> Accessed 31 March 2026.

² See Christine Garnaut, *Colonel Light Gardens: Model Garden Suburb* (Crossing Press, 2006) and Department for Environment and Water, *Heritage Standards: Colonel Light Gardens State Heritage Area* (self-published, 2021), pp.3-5.

³ Marsden, *Business, Charity and Sentiment*, esp. pp.25-45 and pp.457-517.

⁴ 'Over 6,000 in Trust Homes Now', *News*, 19 October 1943, p.3; 'Homes for Legacy Wards: Fifty Widows Obtain Houses', *Advertiser*, 13 June 1946, p.3; Marsden, *Business, Charity and Sentiment*, p.44 and p.168.

⁵ 'Scarfe Cottage Homes', *Register*, 14 July 1906, p.9.

⁶ Susan Marsden, *Heritage Assessment Report: Manitoba Housing Complex* (Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources, 2014), p.1.

⁷ Department for Environment and Water, *Heritage Assessment Report: Dr Kent's Paddock Housing Complex* (Department for Environment and Water, 2022), pp.10-11 and pp.15-17.

⁸ Statement of Heritage Significance for Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden in the SA Heritage Places Database Search, DEW.

https://maps.sa.gov.au/heritagesearch/HeritageItem.aspx?p_heritageno=1684 Accessed 10 February 2026.

⁹ Statement of Heritage Significance for Women's War Memorial Garden, Cross of Sacrifice and Stone of Remembrance in the SA Heritage Places Database Search, DEW.

https://maps.sa.gov.au/heritagesearch/HeritageItem.aspx?p_heritageno=1522 Accessed 10 February 2026.

¹⁰ CT 591/119, Transfer 2035992 18 Dec 1957.

¹¹ 'RSL Sub-Branched and RSL Clubs: What's the Difference?', RSL Australia, N.D.

<https://www.rslaustralia.org/rsl-sub-branches-and-rsl-clubs-whats-the-difference?rq=RSL%20Sub-Branched%20and%20RSL%20clubs> Accessed 20 February 2026.

¹² 'South Australia and Broken Hill Legacy: Our Services', Legacy, 2020.

<https://www.legacy.com.au/clubs/sa/south-australia-broken-hill/legacy/> Accessed 20 February 2026. For example, the Legacy Widows' Club of Burnside ceased operating in 2024.

¹³ 'War Veterans Homes', RSL Care SA, 2019. <https://www.rslcaresa.com.au/about-us/history/> Accessed 19 February 2026.

¹⁴ J. M. Persse and D. M. Rose, *House Styles in Adelaide: A Pictorial History* (Australian Institute of Valuers and Land Economists Incorporated, 1994), p.1 and pp.12-23.

¹⁵ 'Rose Park Historic Area Statement (Bur1)', Part 3 – Overlays: Historic Area Overlay, Planning and Design Code, PlanSA, Department for Housing and Urban Development.

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- ⁶³ Clark, *No Mean Destiny*, pp.189-190.
- ⁶⁴ Clark, *No Mean Destiny*, pp.186-187.
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