

SA Heritage Register

Place Nomination form

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

A place is eligible for entry in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the criteria in Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (Act). Using the table below, please explain why you believe the place should or should not be entered into the Register, using the said criteria. The South Australian Heritage Council invites your submission regarding the entry of this place. For help in making a submission, please refer to the Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Criteria (**Attachment E**) and also available online: [Guidelines-for-Interpreting-State-Heritage-Criteria-2024.pdf](#)

How to help your nomination be successful:

- Fill out this form with as much information as possible.
- Expand answer fields as required and append information to the form.
- Include images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos where possible.

For assistance, contact:

- Your local historical society or heritage adviser.
- Heritage SA - Assessment Officer on **8372 7521**

Please note:

- Places which have been previously nominated during the past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council, unless you can provide significant **new** information.

A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of place:	Australian War Widows (SA) Inc. site (<u>specifically two historic sandstone buildings fronting Fullarton Road + original sandstone wall & memorial rose plantings</u>)
Former name/s:	War Widows Guild of South Australia Inc.
Is the place already on another heritage list?	One of the two prominent sandstone Villa's (Vasey House) on site at 2 Hewitt Avenue / 141 Fullarton Road (road also previously known as Government Road & Victoria Avenue prior to Fullarton Road) is currently listed as a "Local Heritage" Place. The purpose of this State Heritage nomination is to ensure both original sandstone Villa's on "site" + Sandstone Fence + The Memorial Rose Plantings on Fullarton Road are listed for preservation (in a similar fashion to the WWI Plantations on Alexandra Avenue nearby). In so doing, preserving the War Widow's legacy, as attached to the site, both <u>Vasey House</u> and the "second" sandstone Villa - "<u>Jean Rouse" Villa</u> , named after the first SA member and office holder of the War Widow's Guild SA (<u>appendix attached on Jean Rouse</u>).

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2. Location		
Street Address:	141 Fullarton Road	
	Suburb / Town: ROSE PARK	Post Code: 5067
LGA (Council Name):	BURNSIDE	
Subject Land:		
141 FULLARTON RD ROSE PARK SA 5067		
Title ref.: CT 5740/859	Plan Parcel: F140920 AL59	Council: CITY OF BURNSIDE
141 FULLARTON RD ROSE PARK SA 5067		
Title ref.: CT 5838/523	Plan Parcel: D750 AL10	Council: CITY OF BURNSIDE
141 FULLARTON RD ROSE PARK SA 5067		
Title ref.: CT 5740/871	Plan Parcel: F140983 AL22	Council: CITY OF BURNSIDE
141 FULLARTON RD ROSE PARK SA 5067		
Title ref.: CT 5800/898	Plan Parcel: F140919 AL58	Council: CITY OF BURNSIDE
GPS Coordinates (if known):	Longitude	Latitude
	138.6281° E (Longitude)	-34.9298° S (Latitude)
3. Ownership		
Name of Owner/s:	[REDACTED]	
Contact person:	[REDACTED]	
Postal Address:	[REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]	
Ownership History:	<p>The War Widows Guild SA "gifted" the entire site to the [REDACTED] (fellow "not-for profit" organisation in 2005), on the understanding it would be preserved for future War Widow retirement living, in line with the shared vision of Sir Keith Wilson as founder of [REDACTED] [REDACTED]</p> <p>Prior to this - the entire site (including the two historic Villa's) was purchased by the SA War Widows Guild, following 15+ years of fund-raising post the association formation in 1946 (current site purchased for 6,000 pounds in 1963).</p>	

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Are there any current or long-term threats to the nominated place?	Yes URGENT – The current owners of the site, [REDACTED] who were “gifted” the land in 2005 by the War Widow’s Guild SA, now plan to demolish Jean Rouse Villa and partially demolish Vasey House , to develop a 12 storey and 7 storey high rise luxury apartment complex in their place (directly alongside Vasey House).
Name of Builder:	Yet to be appointed
Any other information:	DA ID: 25038696

C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	Both Vasey House & Jean Rouse Villa were constructed between 1898-1900 after an auction of land in the new Rose Park subdivision in 1898 (archive details attached below).
History of the nominated place:	1899-1900 – The two original sandstone residences on the current site facing Fullarton Road were constructed, with records indicating Vasey House was built for local land agent (Richard Verco). While Jean Rouse Villa was constructed on land purchased by successful local business owner and philanthropist Thomas (Thom) Rhodes - who lived and worked in nearby Kent Town for much of his life, after emigrating from Birmingham (England) with his family at the age of 10 in 1849. Mr Rhodes later passing away aged 77 in 1916. The original records of the Rose Park Auction of 1898 indicated Mr Rhodes purchased Lots 8,9 and 10 fronting what was then known as “Government Road”.

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	<p>From 1963 onwards the entire site encompassing both Vasey House and Jean Rouse Villa has housed War Widow's and facilitated SA War Widows Guild activities. This legacy, and the two historic buildings on site, are now at <u>serious risk of demolition</u> as [REDACTED] looks to develop the site into high rise luxury apartments to maximise profits - after being gifted the site by the SA War Widows Guild in 2005 on the understanding it would be enhanced for future War Widow generations.</p>
<p>Historical sources used to support your nomination (please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate):</p>	<p>Refer below</p>

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Various heritage details as sourced from the following;

1. **Burnside Historical Society**
2. **Polly Dundon (author - 'Secrets of Rose Park Toorak Gardens Dulwich and Districts Beyond')**
- Detailed background on Jean Rouse attached to this application via (appendix)
3. **Mrs Jan Milham - Australian War Widows (SA) Inc.**
4. **Several other newspaper articles via Trove.**

Jean Rouse Villa to the South of Vasey House – Named in honour of Jean Rouse as the first paid up member of the SA War Widows Guild for the sum of 1 shilling in 1946. Confirmed via the current War Widow's Guild President **Mrs Jan Milham Dec 2025 and as below.**

TROVE

"Jean rouse"



Advanced Search

ABOUT HELP NEWS PARTNERS SIGN UP LOGIN

Home / Newspapers & Gazettes / Browse / The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1931 - 1954) / Tue 21 Aug 1945 / Page 5 / Private Casualty Advices

The screenshot shows a search result on Trove. On the left is a navigation sidebar with icons for Match text, search, zoom, and other functions. The main content area displays a newspaper clipping from 'The Advertiser' dated Tuesday, August 21, 1945, page 5. The article is titled 'Private Casualty Advices' and contains several short notices. One notice, highlighted in green, reads: 'Mrs Jean Rouse, of Ettrick street, Medindie, has received an uncorroborated report of the death of her husband, Cpl. M H. Rouse, in February last while a prisoner of war in Borneo.' Another notice mentions 'Killed By Train' and a third mentions 'Mrs W E Ekins, of Edward street, Norwood, has received advice that her husband, Cpl. W E. Ekins, was wounded in action on August 9 at Balikpapan and was placed on the seriously ill list.'

Jean's HUSBAND - Maxwell Hainsworth ROUSE was born on 2nd January 1913 in Port Pirie, South Australia His parents were Hainsworth Frederick John ROUSE & Sarah Elizabeth FIELD who married in South Australia in 1909. He married "Jeanie" Scriven BLYTH (Jean ROUSE) on 17th Oct 1940.

Mr Rouse sadly died in 1945 during his time as a POW in Borneo (WWII).

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Jean (Jeanie) Rouse, nee Blyth at the Unitarian Shady Grove Cemetery in the Adelaide Hills 1970's (source – War Widow's Guild (SA) President [REDACTED] Dec 2025).

Below - The National War Widows Guild Founder (**Mrs Jessie Vasey OBE CBE (1897-1966) with Vasey House named in her honour.** (source – War Widow's Guild (SA) President [REDACTED] Dec 2025)



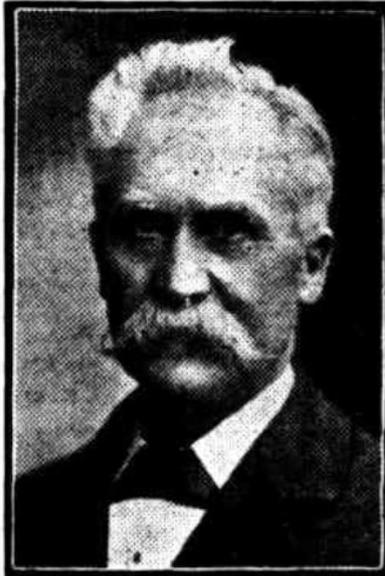
<https://warwidows.org.au/about-us/founder/>

MR. THOMAS RHODES.

A FINE CITIZEN DEAD.

General regret will be felt at the death of Mr. Thomas Rhodes, which occurred at his residence in Payneham road on Tuesday evening. For some time he had been ill, rheumatism and heart trouble having afflicted him sorely. He was taken ill on Christmas Day, and appeared to be recovering, when he was seized with another bad attack on Monday, from which he did not rally.

The deceased occupied a niche which will be hard to fill. Philanthropic work claimed much of his time, yet he was always closely associated with the widely known business which bears his name. The Adelaide business house of W. and T. Rhodes is a firm known to old and young. Mr. Thomas Rhodes was born at Birmingham, England, in 1839, and attained his 77th birthday on October 16 last.



THE LATE MR. THOMAS RHODES.

[Observer \(Adelaide, SA : 1905 - 1931\) Sat 15 Jan 1916 Page 36 MR. THOMAS RHODES.](#)



Advanced Search

TROVE

ABOUT HELP NEWS PARTNER

[Australian Christian Commonwealth \(SA : 1901 - 1940\) / Fri 11 Feb 1916 / Page 5 / THE LATE MR. THOMAS RHODES.](#)

Navigation sidebar with icons for search, home, and other functions.

THE LATE MR. THOMAS RHODES.

Mr. Thomas Rhodes was born seventy-seven years ago, at Fillingley, near Birmingham, and came to South Australia with his parents when ten years of age. Most of the time since then he lived and worked amongst the people of Kent Town. Following the steps of his father (Mr. Geo. Rhodes) and his elder brother (Mr. Wm. Rhodes), he built up a great business from small beginnings, and secured the confidence and esteem of his employes and a good name amongst the mercantile members of the community. He held many a public position, fulfilling all the duties he undertook with conscientious thoroughness, combined with tact and courtesy. He was a member of the School Board of Adelaide, member and then chairman of the Norwood School Board, member of Prince Alfred College Committee, and most assiduous in his attention to all the interests of that great school. From its inception he was a member of the Y.M.C.A., and for many years president of the State Children's Council.

loved so well. "Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thine house and the place where Thine honour dwelleth" was as true of Thomas Rhodes as it was of the singer of old. How he loved the Kent Town church!—loved the building, the appointments, the orderly worship, and above all, "the inward and spiritual grace" of which they are but "the outward and visible sign." He was "a great hearer," and great hearers help to make good preachers, and while he enjoyed a good sermon, the spiritual was the first requirement with him. The prayer meeting, week-night service, and class meeting were all prized and honoured.

For many years he led the Sunday morning class, preparing for it carefully, and making it just what such a meeting should be. There are many men in different parts of this State and in many parts of the Commonwealth who owe much to the influence of that meeting and the kindly counsel of the man who led it so long.

Thomas Rhodes was at once tender, strong, and true. Such men are the salt of the earth, and have been the making of Methodism.

An "In Memoriam" service was held

of his family life, the business life, the devotional life, the religious life, he would think I did well, go to wise.' I dare not point mere beautiful exhibit gallery of Kent Town v bring him before you. My portraiture, how sympathetic, would be were not an appeal. tragedy when the spec filled with gracious de in completeness, stirs i a passing admiration, us nothing but a ch We murmur, 'He had 'His place will be ha then life's secularities claim and absorb us a brief moment the dun shadow we drud are cleft and through a glimpse of the fairer the saints aspire; but closes and the vision f moving a hand break So often our aesthetic moral sense is touched to look on a beautiful varied excellencies see master create without

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/214060063?searchTerm=thomas%20rhodes>

D. Heritage Significance

7. Statement of State significance - Why is this place important to the State of South Australia?

This place is of State Heritage significance, with the Fullarton Road site far more than two beautiful Sandstone Villas + Sandstone Wall + Memorial Rose Plantings—it is a living testament to South Australia's social history, and the enduring legacy of the War Widows Guild (SA) Inc. **Vasey House**, already recognized as a Local Heritage Place, which stands alongside the equally significant **Jean Rouse Villa**, named in honour of the Guild's first South Australian member. Together, the site and these two villas represent a unique chapter in our state's story—one of resilience, community, and service of these amazing women.

For over 60 years, this site has been a sanctuary for South Australian war widows and their families, a place where lives were rebuilt and support networks flourished. The two main buildings architectural integrity, and historical association make it irreplaceable. Protecting the site (primarily these two buildings, the stone wall, and memorial rose plantings) under **State Heritage listing** would ensure that both sandstone villas—and the profound social contribution they symbolise—remain safeguarded for future generations.

This is not just about preserving buildings / structures; it is about honouring the women who carried the weight of war's aftermath and created a legacy of care and solidarity on this site for six decades. By elevating this site to State Heritage status, we affirm its cultural significance and secure its place in South Australia's heritage landscape, together with honouring the strength and resilience of these amazing women.

8. Significance criteria

The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which a place is assessed. Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history. | The site and the two historic buildings on it reflect lengthy /strong association with the War Widows Guild SA Inc. , an organisation that played a significant role in supporting war widows post-WWII from 1946 onwards. This connection reflects an important social and cultural phase in South Australia's history. The site and both Vasey House and Jean Rouse Villa also illustrate the development of Rose Park as an affluent suburb during the Victorian era. |
|---|---|

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.	The two historic villas' on the site together with the stone wall, retain original architectural features such as ironwork fencing, sandstone walls, brick quoins, and decorative iron lattice work, which are increasingly rare in modern developments along Fullarton Road.
<input type="checkbox"/> It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.	The sites association with the War Widows Guild SA Inc. gives it strong cultural significance for a group that contributed greatly to South Australian society post WWII.
<input type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.	The site and its two historic sandstone villas', share a long-standing relationship / association with the War Widow's Guild (SA) after they raised the funds required (6,000 pounds over a 15 year period) to purchase the current site. With the guild representing a crucially important group in South Australian society in the aftermath of WWII.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.	Jean Rouse Villa as pictured below (not currently protected) was named in honour of the SA War Widow Guild's first paid up member (Jean Rouse) - paying 1 Shilling in 1946 for that privilege after her husband Cpl Maxwell Hainsworth ROUSE died while a POW in Borneo in WWII.

Jean Rouse went on to undertake significant work for the Guild in its early years, holding several office roles within the Guild in forming this key part of SA's post WWII community. Jean Rouse passed away in 1983 while living at what is now Jean Rouse House.

Importantly **Vasey House** (already listed for "Local Heritage status) was named in honour of the founding member of the War Widow's Guild movement nationally **Mrs Jessie Vasey OBE CBE (1897-1966)**.

E. Additional Information

9. Images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos

A full range of images, maps, diagrams, plans and photos will help your nomination.

Please provide:

- a clear outline of the place being nominated within a map or plan
- high quality images of the place
- a list and description of the images being provided (including file name, subject, date created, author and copyright holder (if known))

Outline of places on the site deserving of protection (**picture from Fullarton Road taken from Victoria**

Park Grandstand)



Source Google Maps 2025

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Vasey House – corner Fullarton Road and Hewitt Avenue Rose Park - taken from Google Maps -thankfully already with “limited” protections in place.



Current Local Heritage Place Signage for Vasey House (source personal photo 3 Jan 2025)

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A "Rose Garden" in front of Vasey House which contains roses planned in honour of former War Widows and their fallen husbands. It should also be noted it was confirmed with the War Widow's Guild (SA) President [REDACTED] Dec 2025 that **ashes of both Veterans and War Widows have been scattered around some of the roses in front of these historic homes on site.**



Rose plantings in front of Jean Rouse Villa (below) (source personal photos 3 Jan 2025)

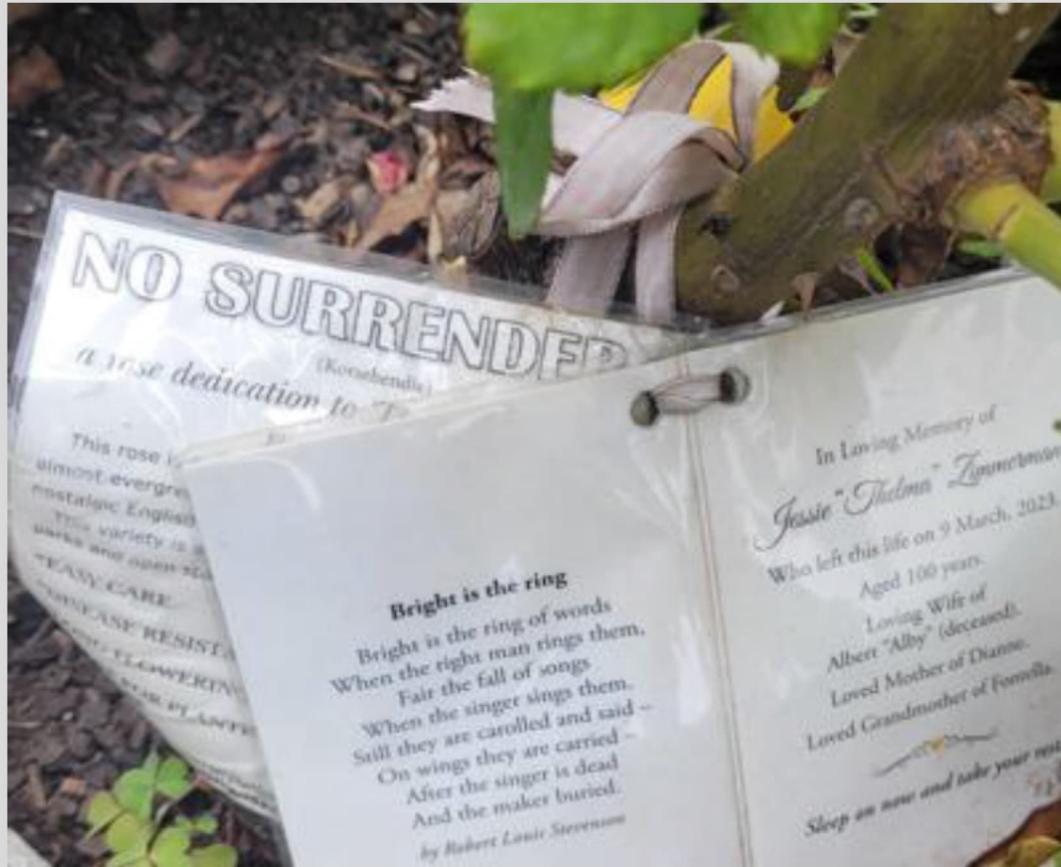


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Memorials placed alongside Rose Plantings in front of the two Villa's (source personal photos 3 Jan 2025)



SA Heritage Register

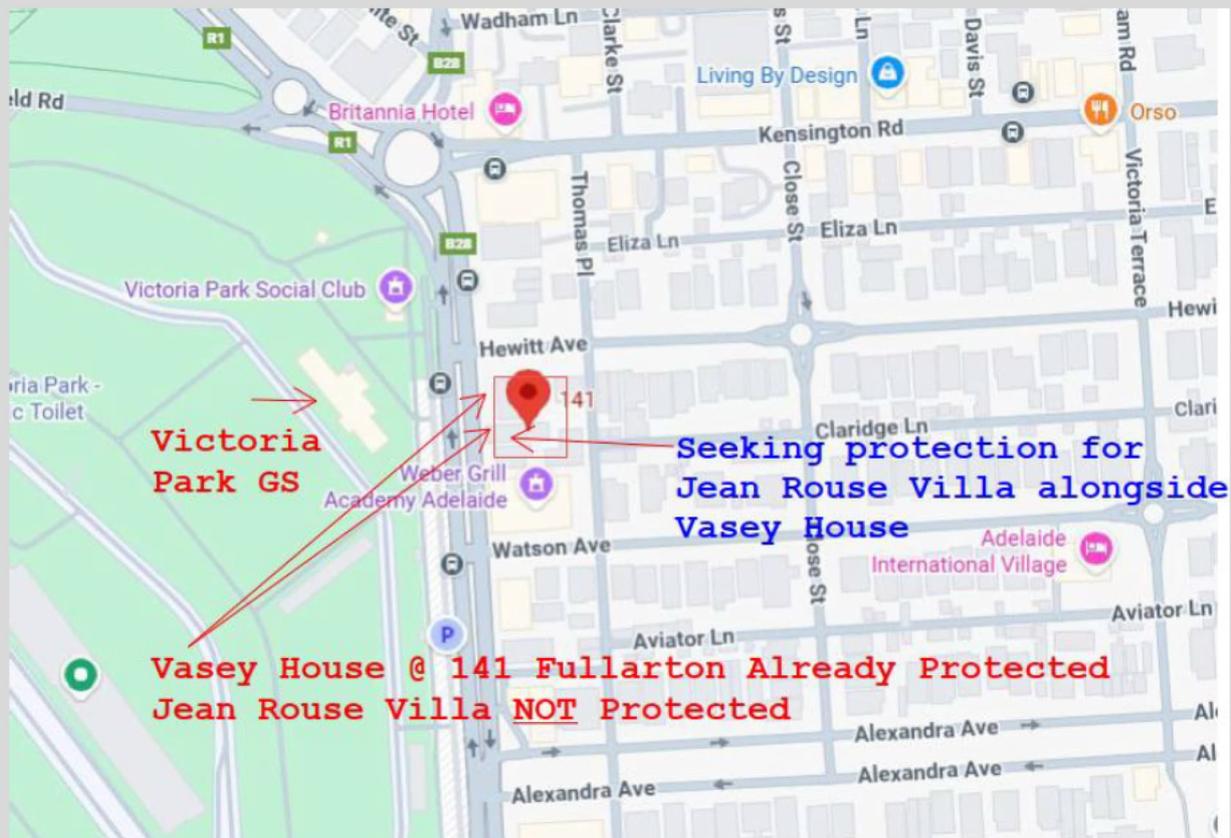
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Jean Rouse Villa (below) to the immediate South of Vasey House as elevated from Fullarton Road (both also adjacent State Heritage Listed Victoria Park Grandstand) on the opposite side of Fullarton Road;



Site Map (source Google Maps – below)



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Above - Front of Jean Rouse Villa (141 Fullarton Road) (source personal photo 3 Jan 2025)



Jean Rouse Villa – highlighting the classic return verandah – From the East looking to Fullarton Road. (source personal photo 3 Jan 2025).

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Jean Rouse Villa – From the north-west (source personal photo 3 Jan 2025)



Jean Rouse Villa – From south-west highlighting the classic return verandas featured with rose plantings in front and alongside. (source personal photo 3 Jan 2025).

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Decorative iron lattice work around the Return Verandah of Jean Rouse Villa facing Fullarton Road
(source personal photo 3 Jan 2025).



It is our sincere hope that via recognition of the War Widow's Guild (SA) association with this site, and the preservation of the two Sandstone Residences + Stone Fence + the Rose Plantings, as currently situated on the site at 141 Fullarton, that a similar memorial can also be established / erected as per the Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Precinct on Alexandra Avenue (not more than 200 meters from the site at 141 Fullarton).



Current State Heritage Listed Site on Alexandra Avenue via the Burnside District Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Precinct.

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The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles, and your name and personal details will not be released, unless authorised or required under the privacy principles.

I do want my personal details to be released when this nomination / submission is published on the Department for Environment and Water's webpage, noting the above requirements.

I/We,  East Residents Association Inc nominate the following place 141 Fullarton Road (Site of the SA War Widow's Guild) including 2 historic buildings (Vasey House & Jean Rouse Villa) both facing Fullarton Road, as owned and utilised by the (SA) War Widow's Guild for guild activities and living from **1963- 2026**, for listing on the South Australian Heritage Register.

The information I have provided is correct to my knowledge.

Signature: 

Date: 13 January 2026

Nomination Form Checklist

Please check that your nomination includes:

- a clear indication of the place's location and significant elements within it, by marking points and boundary lines on a map;
- a history of the place explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination (which help supports arguments of cultural significance);
- a clear description of the nominated place;
- a Statement of Heritage Significance, explaining why the associated State Heritage Place is important to the State of South Australia;
- photograph/s of the object;
- Have you discussed your nomination with a heritage assessment officer before submitting?

We have called the heritage assessment officer on numerous occasions and received the same message each time "due to unforeseen circumstances they are currently unable to attend to our call".

Please forward your nomination form to the

Board and Policy Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Via email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au

Or via post: **GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001**

JEAN ROUSE VILLA – 141 FULLARTON ROAD, ROSE PARK

THE STORY OF JEAN (JEANIE) ROUSE (nee BLYTH)

When on a daily walk, I have often admired an architecturally attractive old building at 141 Fullarton Road that is part of the Australian War Widows Guild in South Australia.

Along Fullarton Road, the past residents who have lived in houses along this road, and who have contributed to the foundation of the early history of Adelaide, spring to mind. Rev George Davidson, Robert Charlick, Richard Verco, John Vincent, Hermann Homburg, Heinrich Krawindel and Edward Spicer. Some of their homes are still standing, while others like Edward Spicer's have sadly been demolished – considered of no significant heritage value!



**The former home of Edward Spicer, 137
Fullarton Road – since demolished**

War Widows Guild SA Inc

On the corner of Hewitt Avenue and Fullarton Road is the property, Vasey House, which was purchased by the War Widows Guild.

The War Widows Guild was founded by Mrs Jessie Vasey in 1945 to give much needed support for women married to soldiers who lost their lives while serving overseas during WWII, giving them the opportunity of each other's company, and to supplement their unfair pensions through activities such as weaving and handcrafts.

Jeanie Rouse was a Foundation Member of the Guild in South Australia.



**House in Wilkinson Road, Parkside where
Jeanie Rouse was born in 1910**

Photo by Author 2026

She was born Jean Scriven Blyth on the 7th of October 1910, to Daisy Scriven (nee Wight) and David Blyth at Wilkinson Road, Parkside South.

During those times midwives would have attended many home births, so this may possibly have been the situation when Daisy Blyth was giving birth to her children.

We know that Jeanie Blyth married a very adventurous groom called Maxwell (Mack) Hainsworth Rouse, originally from Port Pirie.

His father (Hainsworth Frederick Rouse) had put a call out, via the newspaper, in 1928 when Mack was 15 years of age, because his son had gone missing from their home in Brougham Place at Alberton.

The description given of Maxwell included that he was a native of South Australia, (which would rightfully be challenged these days!!!) and that he had an ‘ordinary’ nose among other items given for a description of the young man. It was apparently not unusual for young men to venture from their homes early in life – history tells us that George Hubert Wilkins and Sidney Kidman ventured off from their homes very early in life to start their amazing adventures.

He must have eventually returned, because Jeannie and Mack, he was called, were married in the Office of the Principal Registrar, Adelaide on the 17th of October 1940, approximately 13 months after WWII had started.

Jean’s new husband had already enlisted in the Australian Army in July of 1940. Although this article is Jean Rouse’s story, it is important to know something of her life being married to a soldier, who never returned.

Corporal Maxwell Rouse became a Prisoner of War within the Singapore Changi camp before being transferred to the Sandakan camp in north Borneo, where he died as a POW of the

Japanese in March of 1945. He has no known grave, but his name is commemorated in a Memorial in Malaysia.

We can now go into snippets of Jeanie's life after she married.

She and Mack are said to have had 'children' – indicating more than one child.

A record of a boy called William Charlesworth has been found – born in 1942. But no records of further children have been sighted at this time. If any relatives do come forward with information about other children, it would be appreciated.

At the time of her husband's death, Jean was living with her parents on Etrick Street, Medindie. This attractive bungalow, in need of some TLC, has recently been demolished.



Home of Jeanie's parents on Etrick Street, Medindie

Photo from Realestate.com

Jeanie apparently was not sitting at home fretting about the future (well, we don't really know that!!) but she was, in fact, actively involved with helping others.

Newspaper items in 1941 tell of Jeanie's involvement in the TOC H League of women helpers, and the Mothers' and Babies' Health Association.



Helen Mary Mayo OBE
*Photo from University of
Adelaide (Adelaide Connect
website)*

This latter organisation had its beginnings, when another South Australian, Helen Mayo OBE co-founded the support association in 1927, because she could see the need for mothers needing assistance with their families, so the tradition of women volunteering to assist others was being carried on.

In the year of 1941, Jean Rouse, as Secretary of the Mothers and Babies Health Association, had worked in the Stow Building, Flinders Street, Adelaide.

Jean Rouse was a foundation member of the South Australian War Widows Guild and was also the first war widow in SA to pay her one shilling to become a member.

Music was a much-loved hobby of Jeanie's, as well as being one of the South Australian Guild's very early weavers. At one stage had been an instructress for a course of night classes.

She was so efficient at the craft that the Governor of SA, Sir Mark Oliphant, asked the Guild to weave a length of fabric to reupholster two small chairs in the Royal Suite of Government House, in anticipation of a visit by Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip. Jean was given the task. Sir Mark chose the pattern and colours, and S A woollen mills supplied the wool.

Jeanie would probably have seen the original stables that were on the property of Vasey House, originally the home of Richard Verco, and this was what the Guild used as a shop to store and sell their craft items.

In another news item, it was reported that Mrs Jean Rouse was installed as Chairman for 1954 of the TOC H organisations, whose activities of which helped several other support groups, including the "Women's Association". Functions organised included a camp for girls at Victor Harbor, a report on the Australian Festival held in Perth, planning a sweet stall for the Spastic Children's Fete, and various other events.

The Adelaide branch of TOC H held some of their meetings at the home of Olive Hookings, of Close Street, Rose Park – within walking distance of Vasey House in Hewitt Avenue.

In 1954, members of TOC H at that time were asked to go along to help clear up after repairs following the Adelaide earthquake – in particular Mitcham Branch of TOC H, and in the city office at Selborne Chambers, Pirie Street Adelaide.

Jeanie had returned to work when her children went to school but used time from her annual leave to be the Minutes Secretary during Janet Mayo's term of office as President of the War Widows Guild. She took the minutes of the first State Conference under Janet Mayo's leadership also in October 1967, in Adelaide.

Edith Janet Mayo was the South Australian President of the War Widows Guild at the time of Jessie Vasey's death in 1966 and was promptly elected the new National President.

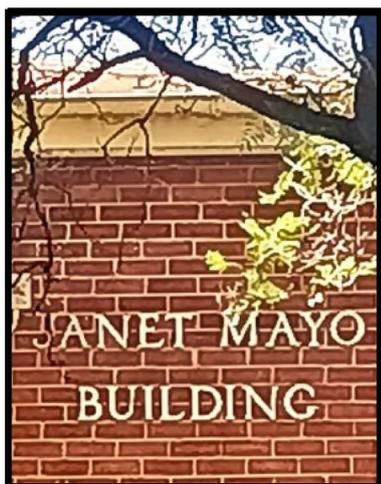
She became a War Widow in 1941, at 26 years, receiving the telegram of her husband's death while he was serving on the HMAS Sydney, which was attacked by the German raider war ship called Kormoran off the coast of Western Australian with the loss of all on board.



**Janet Mayo (nee Simpson) CBE
SA President War Widows Guild
for eleven years. National
President 1966-7**

*Photo from "No Mean Destiny" by
Mavis Thorpe Clark*

(on loan from [REDACTED] – Former
President War Widows Guild, SA)



**Janet Mayo Building Rose
Park**

Photo by Author

Janet, like many war wives was living with her parents, Janet Doris (nee Hubbe) and Alfred Allen Simpson at "Undelcarra" a well-known historical house in Burnside. The telegram simply said, 'Missing in action, believed killed.'

The Janet Mayo Building – of the War Widows Guild – in Hewitt Avenue, stands on the corner of Close Street and bears her name.

With all of these women, we can clearly see that when a social problem occurred, they actively stepped up to help and be involved.

Jeanie Rouse passed away at 141 Fullarton Road in 1983, in the Heritage house that now bears her name, “*Jean Rouse Villa*”. She was aged 72 years.



Rouse Villa
141 Fullarton Road, Rose Park
Photo by Author 2026



Jean Rouse collecting firewood at the Balhannah Shady Grove Unitarian Cemetery and Chapel
Photo from “No Mean Destiny” by Mavis Thorpe Clark
(on loan from [REDACTED] – Former President Member War Widows Guild, SA)

Jeanie is buried at the Balhannah Shady Grove Unitarian Cemetery in the Adelaide Hills.



Balhannah Shady Grove School House, Cemetery and Unitarian Chapel

Photo by Author 2023

This is a beautiful resting place for many people including Dr John Dowie AM, the famous sculptor and artist, who was a resident of Dulwich, which, like Rose Park, is a suburb of the City of Burnside.

The Fullarton Road Villas of the War Widows Guild – “Jean Rouse Villa” (141 Fullarton Road) and “Vasey House” (2 Hewitt Avenue)

Between 1965 and 1966, what was Victoria Avenue had its name changed to Fullarton Road. Before that, it had had several different names, initially with Kent Road, beginning where the Maid and Magpie Hotel now stands; Brownhill Creek Road; Government Road; etc.

These two houses stand side by side, one on Hewitt Avenue and the other on Fullarton Road.

Despite very important people who may have built and lived in these homes, their importance seems secondary to the story of the brave women of the War Widows Guild who have had to fight difficult battles for justice and fairness in receiving pensions and support – and who, it appears still have to keep fighting to avoid unceremonious eviction.

In 1965, number 7 Victoria Avenue, as it was the name and number used at the time (now known as 141, Fullarton Road), had Mrs E Pierson and Mrs B McLeod as residing there – most likely War Widows. The following year, 1966, the records show it as Number 141 and as simply the War Widows Guild in 1967.

This following is an extract from a letter from a young girl, coming from overseas to visit her father's parents on Grant Avenue, Rose Park, and who had read her grandmother's copy of the book "*Secrets of Rose Park, Toorak Gardens, Dulwich, and Districts Beyond*" and kindly wrote a review.

I found this Book fascinating particularly the Diagrams and Descriptions of the Houses first built there.

I wonder what life will be like in a hundred years time!

— Emilia [REDACTED] 9

The 'wisdom of youth'! Was she telling us to be careful with our heritage homes.

Unfortunately, I have been told that the records of the War Widows Guild have been kept in the original office of Vasey House, at Number 2 Hewitt Avenue, Rose Park, which has been locked and therefore not available now to any of the present residents as at the 7th of January 2026.

These ladies have applied to another interstate War Veterans Association in New South Wales to be accepted under their organisation, but after 4 months have had no reply.

After visiting two residents at Vasey House, I came away with the realisation that it seems that nothing at all has changed as far as assistance to help War Widows and as a society we should be ashamed.

Compiled by

**[REDACTED]
Author and Resident of the City of Burnside.**

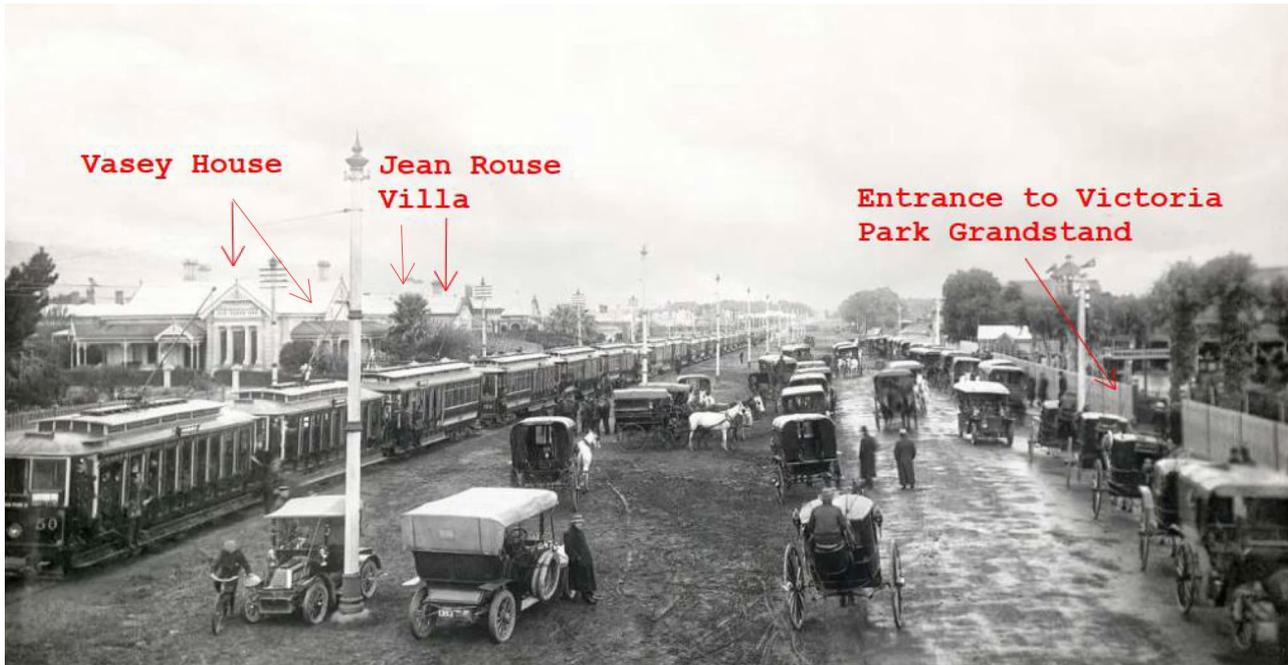
11th of January, 2026.

SA Heritage Register

Place Nomination form

South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL

Additional Material Post Initial Application on 14th Jan 2026 – **Provided 20 Jan 2026**



Looking South along what is now **Fullarton Road -1915 (Source: State Library Archives).**

Noting at 141 Fullarton, Vasey House (Local Heritage: 8278) and Jean Rouse Villa, both to the East, and the entrance to the Victoria Park "Members Gate" on the West (the Victoria Park grandstand also being a "significant" State Heritage place (ID: 13661).

These remaining buildings also provide one of the last Fullarton road entrances / gateways / corridors into the recognised "Heritage Precinct" of Rose Park (itself one of the last remaining intact precincts of its kind in greater Adelaide).

Put simply, there are three distinct layers of critical heritage importance at play with this location.

First, Jessie Vasey House, Jean Rouse Villa, and the broader legacy of the SA War Widows, which forms a unique and irreplaceable cultural asset on this site, and the state broadly.

Second, directly opposite sits Victoria Park grandstand, its historic gates, and the surrounding parklands (picture below).

Third, the suburb of Rose Park itself—one of Adelaide's most intact heritage precincts—contains significant streetscapes, **including the State Heritage listed WWI memorial plantings along Alexandra Avenue (ID: 13987).**

The current proposed development at 141 Fullarton, would completely erase the first of these heritage layers, should Vasey House be partially demolished, and Jean Rouse Villa demolished.

SA Heritage Register

Place Nomination form

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

In doing so, this would also diminish the value of the other two layers.

The result would also be an intrusive, visually jarring backdrop, that overwhelms and undermines the remaining heritage assets, rather than respecting and complementing them appropriately.



Victoria Park Grandstand 1920's (Source: State Library Archives).

Of further note – it has been highlighted to us that the “stone terrace wall” between Jean Rouse Villa and the Fullarton Road entrance – is likely original and worthy of protection / preservation.



A stone terrace wall between Jean Rouse Villa and the Fullarton Road entrance to Jean Rouse Villa (source personal photo 19 Jan 2026 on site).

SA Heritage Register

Place Nomination form

South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL

Additional Material Post Initial Application on 14th Jan 2026 – **Provided 27 Jan 2026**

Details of National War Widows Day as declared by the premier of South Australia following strong advocacy from the Australian War Widow (SA) Inc in 2024.

The inspiring story behind War Widows Day 18th Oct 2023 (Veterans SA)

South Australia commemorates inaugural War Widows Day

War Widows Day will be commemorated for the first time today in South Australia to recognise the resilience and enduring sacrifice of Australian war widows.

This important day of observance is an opportunity for the South Australian community to pay tribute to the strength, courage, and unwavering commitment of those who have lost a spouse or partner through service for the Australian Defence Force.

The day of commemoration was officially declared by the Malinauskas Labor Government in March this year, following strong advocacy from the Australian War Widows (SA) Inc.

The Australian War Widows Inc. (previously the War Widows' Guild of Australia) has a long history of supporting the families of the fallen. It was established in 1945 by Mrs Jessie Vasey, whose birthday has been chosen as the commemoration date. In recognition of the occasion, Parliament House will be lit up in royal blue tonight – the official colour of Australian War Widows Inc.

War Widows Day will be formally recognised in South Australia on 19 October each year.

Quotes

Attributable to Geoff Brock

Today we come together for the first time to formally honour the families of the fallen. Establishing a dedicated day to recognise and honour our war widows and widowers is a simple yet significant gesture to acknowledge all who have been touched and bereaved by the death of a spouse resulting from Defence service.

We also recognise the tireless work of Australian War Widows (SA) Inc as they continue to support the wellbeing of Defence families affected by a loss across the state.

On behalf of all South Australians, I thank the war widows and widowers in our community for their service and acknowledge the unthinkable sacrifices they have made.

The inspiring story behind War Widows Day

News: Wednesday, 18th October 2023



October 19 has been officially enshrined as War Widows Day in South Australia, recognising the sacrifices and contributions of generations of war widows and widowers.

Australian war widows and widowers were formally recognised for the first time in South Australia, when the inaugural War Widows Day was held on 19 October 2023.

The day of commemoration was **officially declared by the South Australian Government** in March 2023, following strong advocacy from the **Australian War Widows (SA) Inc** and similar declarations in New South Wales and Queensland.

At the time, then Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Geoff Brock, recognised the work of Australian War Widows (SA) Inc. (now part of the **Families of Veterans Guild**) whose members support the wellbeing of Defence families.

"Establishing a dedicated day to recognise and honour our war widows and widowers is a simple yet significant gesture to acknowledge all who have been touched and bereaved by the death of a spouse resulting from Defence service," he said. "We also recognise the tireless work of Australian War Widows (SA) Inc as they continue to support the wellbeing of Defence families affected by a loss across the state."

Founded as the War Widows' Craft Guild by **Mrs Jessie Vasey OBE CBE** in November 1945, the organisation has continued to evolve to meet the needs of its ever-changing community for more than 75 years. It was established in response to a lack of support and recognition of war widows and families following World War I and World War II.

Mrs Vasey was the wife of Major General George Vasey CB CBE DSO, one of the most renowned Australian generals of the Second World War.

During a visit home in 1945, Major General Vasey visited the widow of one of his fallen men, where he was shocked by the poor conditions they were living in and the absence of government support. He decided that after peace was declared it would be his mission to fight for better compensation and support for war widows.

In a sad twist of fate, Mrs Vasey herself became a war widow when her husband was killed in an aircraft crash on 5 March 1945. It was then that she decided to follow through with her husband's pledge to ensure that war widows and their families would be cared for, just as the government had promised to the men who enlisted.



Mrs Jessie Vasey CBE OBE
Source: **Australian War Widows**

When the organisation started advocating for the national declaration of War Widows Day, 19 October – Mrs Vasey's birthdate – was chosen in her honour as the commemoration date.

In 2024, the day was marked nationally for the first time, with 19 October recognised across the country as National War Widows Day, to honour the sacrifice war widows have endured and the legacy they carry on.

This day may be difficult for some members of the veteran community. If you require support or access to resources, please visit **ADF Members & Families** or call the 24/7 helpline on 1800 624 608.

[Learn more about War Widows Day.](#)

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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, water, sky and community.

We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this website contains images or names of people who have passed away.

Early Activities & Fundraising of the South Australian War Widows Guild

Added 16/02/2026

Early Activities (1940s–1950s) & Fundraising

1. Craftwork & Handicraft Groups

From its earliest years, the SA War Widows Guild centred its work around practical craft groups. These early activities are described as:

- Teaching weaving and other handicrafts to help SA widows supplement their inadequate pensions.
- Providing a safe social environment for women adjusting to life after WWII.
- Offering a sense of shared purpose, self-help, and community rebuilding.

The presence of South Australian Guild made craft pieces—such as a 1950 woven tray cloth by SA member Mrs Joyce Mobsby, now held in the National War Memorial (below) demonstrates that these creative activities were firmly established in the SA branch. These traditions continued after the Guild established its permanent home at Rose Park.

2. Companionship, Counselling & Support

Alongside practical craftwork, the SA War Widows Guild provided essential emotional and welfare support:

- Regular social gatherings to combat isolation at the Rose Park site.
- Guidance navigating pensions, benefits, and housing entitlements.
- Advocacy for widows' rights at both state and national levels.

This social cohesion became a defining strength of the Guild's identity in South Australia.

Early Fundraising Methods

1. Sale of Handicrafts

Handicraft production served a dual purpose: therapy and fundraising.

- Members created goods such as woven cloths, embroidery, and household textiles.
- These items were sold privately, and at Guild events to raise funds and augment members' personal incomes.

These small-scale, member-driven fundraising efforts formed the financial backbone of the Guild's early years, and enabled the ladies to fund the Rose Park site purchase (following 15 years of fundraising efforts).

2. Community-Based Fundraising Events

The South Australian branch also relied on broader community engagement:

- Fairs, stalls and displays featuring Guild made goods.
- Social gatherings that raised both funds and public awareness of SA war widows' needs.
- Advocacy events that supported the Guild's growing influence.

These activities fostered goodwill and broadened the Guild's community presence.

3. Housing-Related Fundraising (Mid 1950s)

By the 1950s, the Guild's focus was shifting toward securing stable housing for widows.

- In South Australia, this facilitated the purchase of the historic homes on Fullarton Road, later forming the core of the Rose Park site.
- Housing became a national priority, and SA—already well established—played an active role in these initiatives with the purchase of the Rose Park properties.

This era marked the Guild's expansion from a social support organisation to a provider of long-term security for widows.

Historical Artifacts and Archival Records (Australian War Widows (SA) Inc.)

A substantial collection of historical artifacts—including weaving looms, tapestries, and “archival documents” remain on site at **141 Fullarton Road Rose Park (locked away)**.

Unfortunately, these materials have been inaccessible since **4 December 2025** when locks to the ladies onsite office and hall were changed by the [REDACTED].

It is our sincere hope these culturally significant items and official records will soon be released to their rightful owners, and allowed to form the foundations of a working museum onsite based on the current State Heritage Nomination.

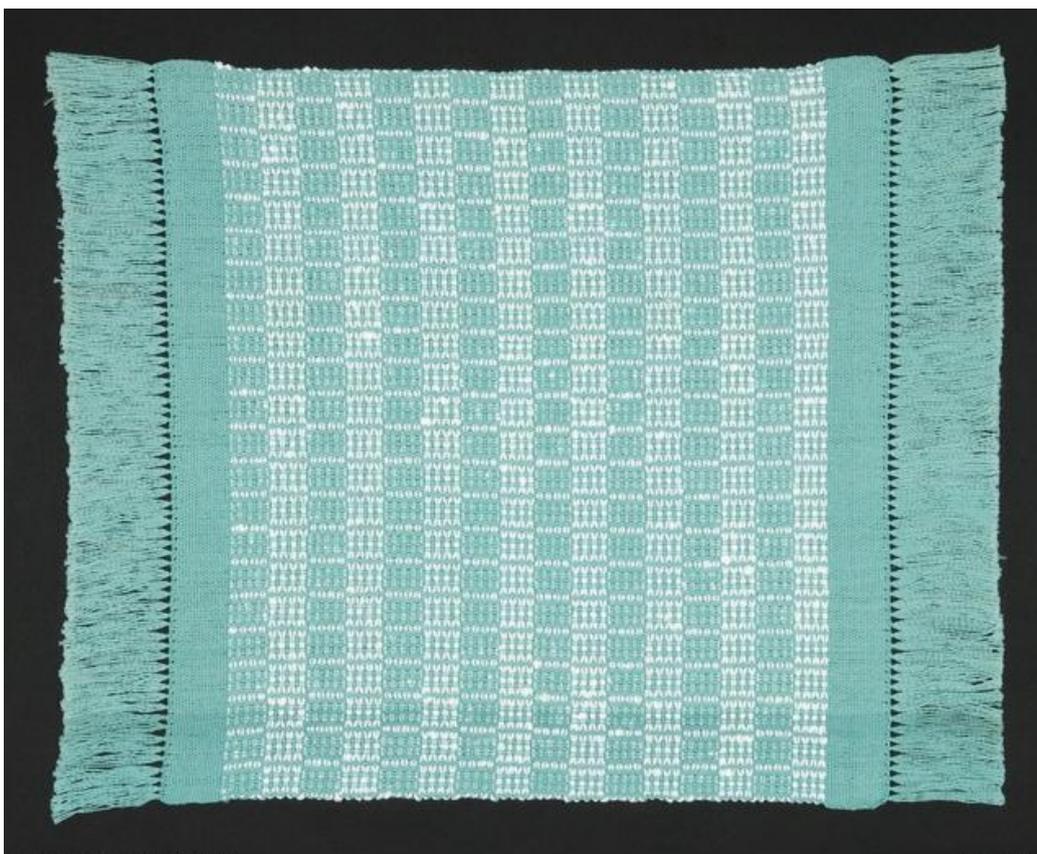
Noting these artifacts represent a vital part of South Australia's social history, and stand as a living reminder of the extraordinary achievements of the SA War Widows—women who persevered through hardship, inequality, and disadvantage. A fact not lost on those remaining, as they fight to protect their legacy in the modern era.

Summary

The early activities and fundraising efforts of the South Australian War Widows' Guild were foundational to its long-term impact. Through craftwork, community engagement, and determined fundraising—particularly for housing—the Guild built both a strong internal community, and a stable organisational base. These early efforts ultimately enabled the establishment of the Rose Park homebase, which became a lasting centre of support and companionship for South Australian war widows as it still is today. It is unfortunately that this legacy is currently at serious risk of being lost unless the State Heritage Nomination is appropriately supported.

Prepared by [REDACTED] – following discussions with [REDACTED] (Daughter of former SA War Widows Guild Treasurer & President ([REDACTED])).

Green and white woven tray cloth: Mrs Joyce Mobsby, War Widows Guild of Australia (SA Branch), 1950 - who was an early office holder in the Guild. Now held in Canberra.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

REL25755

[Green and white woven tray cloth: Mrs Joyce Mobsby, War Widows Guild of Australia \(SA Branch\), 1950 | Australian War Memorial](https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C329410)

Link to Australian War Memorial Archive Collection

<https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/C329410>

Example of the early struggle these resourceful women faced are detailed in early news articles;

7 Oct 1946

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/35759885?searchTerm=South%20Australian%20War%20Widows>

20 Nov 1946

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/128374509?searchTerm=South%20Australian%20War%20Widows>

9 Jan 1947

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/30506187?searchTerm=South%20Australian%20War%20Widows>

9 April 1948

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/43762656?searchTerm=South%20Australian%20War%20Widows>

14 Jun 1948

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/162720330?searchTerm=South%20Australian%20War%20Widows>

6 Dec 1948

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/74646081?searchTerm=South%20Australian%20War%20Widows>

20 Jul 1949

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/48597900?searchTerm=South%20Australian%20War%20Widows>

10 May 1950 – Update on SA War Widows progress as they are forced to fight hard for recognition in post WWII Australia.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/44932895>

Recent Media Background Highlighting SA War Widows Continued Importance To SA

War Widows Day 2023 Around Australia – SA Ladies featured

<https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/war-widows-day-around-australia>

War Widows Honoured By SA Premier - Peter Malinauskas 2023

<https://veteranssa.sa.gov.au/media-releases/war-widows-honoured-with-day-of-commemoration/>

Recent SA War Widows Event in 2025

<https://www.dva.gov.au/newsroom/vetaffairs/vetaffairs-vol-41-no3-december-2025/leading-a-green-revolution-in-commemorative-tributes>

Media Release

War widows honoured with day of commemoration

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Thursday, 16th March 2023

Peter Malinauskas
Premier

Geoff Brock MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs

South Australia will formally recognise the contribution and personal sacrifices of war widows and widowers with an annual day of commemoration on 19 October.

The declaration of a special day is a small token in recognising and honouring widows and widowers of those who made the ultimate sacrifice by serving in the Australian Defence Force.

It also highlights the ongoing work of Australian War Widows (SA) Inc and their dedication to the wellbeing of families who have lost a loved one to war service for Australia.

The War Widows' Guild of Australia was established in 1945 by Jessie Vasey, whose birthday has been chosen as the commemoration date.

The organisation is dedicated to supporting war widows from all conflicts by providing friendship, support and advocacy for those who have been affected by loss through service.

Further details about commemorative activities to mark the first War Widows Day on 19 October 2023 will be publicised in the coming months.

Quotes attributable to Peter Malinauskas:

It is important that we acknowledge these families in our community that have faced unthinkable grief but who – in true Defence family style – demonstrate resilience and strength after losing a loved one to service.

On behalf of all South Australians, I thank the widows and widowers in our community for their service and for the immeasurable sacrifices they have made.

The Australian war widows in South Australia has a long history of supporting the families of the fallen.

On 19 October 2023, we will come together to honour these respected members of our community and pay tribute to their dedication, service and sacrifice.

Quotes attributable to Diane Carr, President, Australian War Widows (SA) Inc:

Our community is made of strong and supportive women and men who have experienced terrible loss, but who want to continue to make a difference in the lives of all Defence families.

We are very grateful that the South Australian Government has chosen to honour these people and commemorate War Widows Day on 19 October each year.

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We acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledge their continuing connection to land, water, sky and community.

We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this website contains images or names of people who have passed away.

WAR WIDOWS' GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (15:55): This year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the War Widows' Guild of South Australia. Many may not be aware of the history of the guild and the place it has in South Australia's and indeed Australia's military history. I am indebted to Helen Adamson for her remarks on the 70th anniversary in 2016 and, in light of the auspiciousness of this year's anniversary, feel it necessary to put some of those remarks on the record in the lead-up to this year's events.

The War Widows' Guild was formed across Australia through the leadership of Mrs Jessie Vasey. Her husband, General George A. Vasey, cared not only about his men but also about the widows and orphans of his soldiers. When he was killed in an air accident in 1946, Jessie was determined to carry on the work her husband had begun by founding the War Widows' Guild and serving as its president until her death in 1966.

The broad aims of the guild were to watch over and protect the interest of war widows. Mrs Vasey believed the surest way to help the widows maintain a dignified standard of living was by rehabilitation through the formation of craft groups. Here was a twofold purpose: sharing the company of women grappling with same issues of loss and the prospect of supplementing meagre compensatory pensions through craft works—hence, the original title of the organisation was the War Widows' Craft Guild of Australia.

In South Australia in September 1946, Mrs Jefferson Walker was contacted by Mrs Vasey to begin the guild in this state. Initially, there was some opposition to the organisation being established here but help arrived from a number of different areas, including Adelaide's then Lord Mayor, Mr Jack McClay, who made a room at the Town Hall available for guild meetings. The first meeting of the branch was subsequently held in the Lady Mayoress's room at Town Hall on 20 October 1946.

The first general meeting was held at the Women's Auxiliary National Service Headquarters on North Terrace on 8 November 1946. The guild's first office was set up at Kingsway House at 89 Flinders Street, remaining the South Australian headquarters for the next 13 years.

Help continued to come from various areas and in different forms. The South Australian branch of the Returned Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia, now the RSL SA, helped sponsor a public meeting to raise awareness and John Martin & Co. Ltd held an exhibition and sale of selected handcrafts in the shop's gallery, with Wholesale Furniture Manufacturer Pty Ltd supplying furniture for the Flinders Street office.

In April 1947, the first AGM of the guild was held at the Adelaide Cheer-up Hut. This same year, the RSL SA made their music room available for monthly general meetings, which took place on the first Friday of each month. A council of up to 20 members was formed in the 1950s to organise the social side of the guild, one activity being the now famous bus trip outings held on the third Friday of each month, still being enjoyed by guild members today.

In February 1955, a small shop was acquired for the sale of members' handcrafts in the suburb of Unley. In 1957, Kingsway House was sold and the committee began looking for a more serviceable venue. As well as an office for their headquarters, they needed accommodation for some of the more elderly members of the guild. A house was found on the corner of Fullarton Road and Hewitt Avenue in Rose Park and was later named Vasey House in honour of the guild's founders. The backyard began to be used for the guild's monthly trading tables to sell handcrafted items made by guild members.

More accommodation was needed and in 1959 a two-storey structure consisting of 12 self-contained flats was built. In 1966, another building was erected with six additional flats and a very large meeting room for monthly meetings. It was named Lorna Hosking House, in honour of the guild's then president who had worked so hard and tirelessly to secure the buildings. An office and kitchen were also included and all these facilities are still in use today.

It is important we remember the wives and children of those soldiers who did not return, who are arguably left to bear the true cost of war. Seventy-five years ago, the promise of the government of the day was: 'If the husband died for their country, their widows and orphans would not want.'

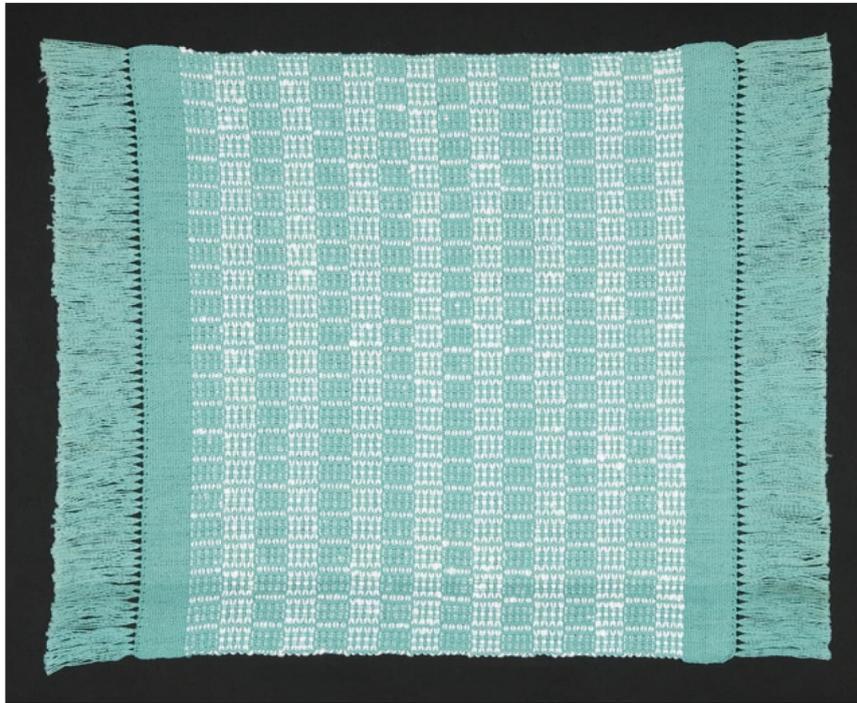
The work of the War Widows' Guild has done much to alleviate the pressure of this burden and to ensure war widows are not forgotten. This work goes back to the ANZAC campaign, and each year I am happy to buy Anzac cookies from the War Widows' Guild.

Because of this care for widows and their children, it is no surprise that Legacy Club South Australia and Broken Hill is happy to welcome the war widows' participation in the annual Australasian Soldiers Dardanelles Cenotaph Commemorative Service each year. The memorial was unveiled on Wattle Day on 7 September 1915—the first such memorial after the great losses of 25 April.

It was wonderful to see War Widows' Guild SA President, Jan Milham; Vice President, Helen Adamson; and secretary, Jill Davidson, on Sunday 5 September this year, with a wonderful address by Veterans SA Director, Catherine Walsh, and participation by Adelaide's Turkish community, led by Mrs Tanya Kaplan OAM.

I look forward to celebrating the 75th anniversary with War Widows' Guild of South Australia on Thursday 21 October at Legacy House and urge all members to do everything they can to support the work of the War Widows in their electorates.

Green and white woven tray cloth: Mrs Joyce Mobsby, War Widows Guild of Australia (SA Branch), 1950



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

REL25755

Place	Oceania: Australia, South Australia
Accession Number	REL25755
Collection type	Heraldry
Object type	Heraldry
Physical description	Linen
Maker	Mobsby, Erica Joyce
Place made	Australia
Date made	1950
Conflict	Period 1950-1959

Description

Pale green and white patterned woven tray cloth with tassels along two opposing sides.

History / Summary

Woven cloth made by Mrs Erica Joyce Mobsby of Adelaide in 1950. Born in 1913 in Adelaide as Erica Joyce Tassie (but known as Joyce), she worked as a bank clerk in the Bank of NSW. Here she grew friendly with Edward Tompson Mobsby, also of Adelaide. Born in Staffordshire, England in 1910, Edward moved to Adelaide with his family in 1920 and in 1926 also joined the Bank of NSW. They married in 1936 and in April 1939 Joyce gave birth to twin girls, Rae and Jennifer.

Mobsby enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force on 6 January 1941 under service number 407799. From January 1941 until May 1942 he attended various air force training in schools in South Australia and Victoria. After gaining the rank of flying officer in February 1942, he was posted to the RAAF Headquarters North Eastern Area in Townsville in May. By the end of the month was seconded to the United States 90th Squadron, 3rd Bombardment Group, based at Charters Towers and flying North American B-25Cs.

The Americans were suffering from a shortage of aircrew and they welcomed the Australian pilot whom they nicknamed 'Mobs'. The other four crew were all Americans but flying as co-pilot, he quickly adapted to the job – Mobsby was flying his first mission just 10 days after he joined them – bombing Lae on the east coast of New Guinea on 9 June, a day after the squadron moved from Charters Towers to Seven Mile Drome at Port Moresby.

On 26 July after just a dozen or so missions, his squadron was called upon to bomb Japanese flying boats at Gasmata in New Britain – a stronghold of Japanese fighters. The five B-25Cs had not left the New Guinea mainland before they were attacked by a flight of nine Zero fighters over Gona Mission – they dropped their bombs and turned for Port Moresby. But the odds were against them, and Mobsby's Mitchell was seen

"burning fiercely from nose to tail" with Flying Officer Mobsby vainly trying to struggle though upper cockpit hatch. No one parachuted out. Another Mitchell was brought down as well. The entire crew of five were lost and the plane wasn't located.

Back in Adelaide on the same day, Joyce woke up in the middle of the night, sobbing and inconsolable. She'd had a nightmare and heard Edward calling to her that his plane had been shot down. He was posted as missing until May 1943, when his identity disc was discovered with his remains, near Kokoda. He was buried in Bomana War Cemetery. He was 31 years old.

His effects were sent to her. She settled down to life as a widowed mother of two three year old girls, returning to the bank and, after the war, helping to set up the South Australia branch of the War Widows Guild of Australia in 1946, being its treasurer and helping to raise funds by organising fetes and craft shows. She never remarried.

One of the fliers in the squadron Warrant Officer Murray Wilson, wrote to her in late 1942, saying that "he has been recommended for an American Decoration and this should soon be approved." But while the American members of the crew were posthumously awarded the Silver Star, the family of Flying Officer Edward Mobsby was forbidden to accept a foreign award. Joyce enquired about this during the war, but was always knocked back.

Joyce died in 1993, but her daughters, took up the fight and pressured the United States to award the Silver Star to Mobsby. In 2014, having written to President Barak Obama, a posthumous Silver Star was awarded to the daughters of Edward Mobsby in a ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

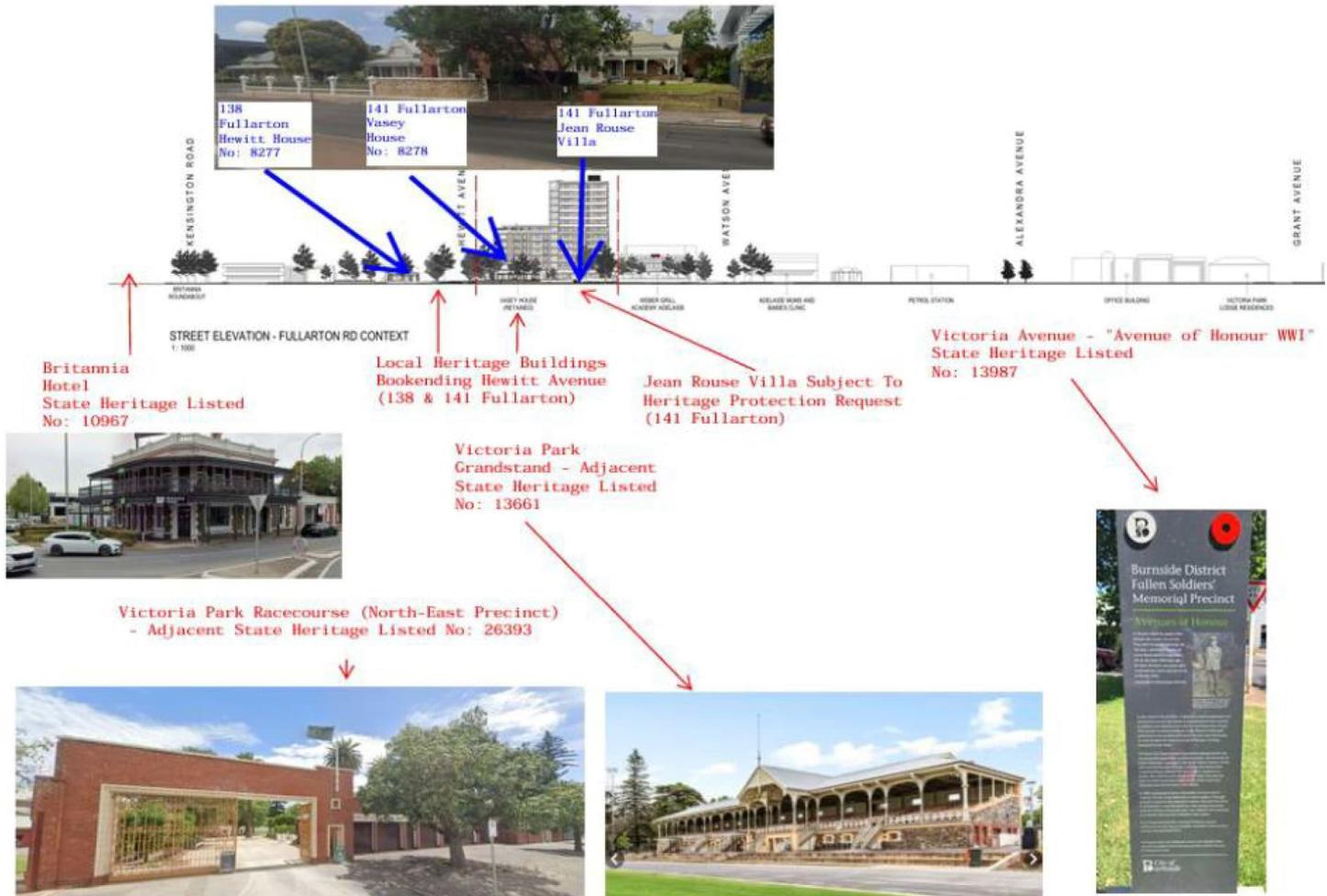
This woven cloth tray cloth, woven by Joyce, was possibly part of a country tour of the display of handicrafts by guild members mentioned in Adelaide's "The Advertiser" for 5 October 1950. "The goods will include a collection of beautiful examples of hand-weaving in wool and linen at prices ranging from 4/6 to £10 10." The display was organised by Joyce; she was still active in the Guild's activities in the 1980s.

Heritage Adjacency and Setting

Additional information sourced from a Qualified Heritage Consultant

The site is located within an **exceptionally sensitive heritage context**, including:

- Vasey House (Local Heritage Place);
- Multiple State Heritage Places x 4 and Local Heritage Places x 2 within close proximity; and
- The Northwestern gateway to the Rose Park Historic Area via a heritage “bookend” entrance to Hewitt Avenue (Local Heritage places either side).



We would assert this site is one of the last remaining “concentrated clusters / triangulations” of significant heritage “typology”, abutting the East Parklands which were also inscribed on the National Heritage List on 7 November 2008.

There are already x4 State Heritage places within a 250m radius of this site + x2 Local Heritage places effectively “bookending” the entrance to Rose Park’s “intact Historical Conservation Zone Precinct” via Hewitt Avenue... This is extremely rare, and of significant historical importance to the State, and would be basically destroyed if the current proposed of “high-density” massing was allowed on this site.



138 Fullarton Vasey House No: 8277

141 Fullarton Vasey House No: 8278

141 Fullarton Jean Rouse Villa



STREET ELEVATION - FULLARTON RD CONTEXT
1:1000

Britannia Hotel
State Heritage Listed
No: 10967

Local Heritage Buildings
Bookending Hewitt Avenue
(138 & 141 Fullarton)

Jean Rouse Villa Subject To
Heritage Protection Request
(141 Fullarton)

Victoria Avenue - "Avenue of Honour WWI"
State Heritage Listed
No: 13987

Victoria Park
Grandstand - Adjacent
State Heritage Listed
No: 13661

Victoria Park Racecourse (North-East Precinct)
- Adjacent State Heritage Listed No: 26393

