

SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

REGISTER ENTRY

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

NAME: Cummins House - Morphet Family Furniture Collection **OBJECT NO.:** 10552
- 001-021
Collection of Objects intrinsically related to
Cummins House (SHP 10552)

ADDRESS: 19-23 Sheoak Avenue, Novar Gardens SA 5040 CT/5796/195 F6203
A145 Hundred of Adelaide

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Heritage Significance (Place) – Cummins House (SHO 10552)

Cummins House is one of South Australia's earliest extant buildings and reveals considerable details about the design and construction materials and methods of buildings from this era (1842-1854). The house was thought to be designed by George Strickland Kingston for John and Elizabeth Morphet (later Sir) who played a profound role in the establishment and development of the Colony of South Australia. Cummins House was lived in by five generations of the Morphet family and is one of a very few residences in South Australia that has been occupied by one family for such a long period of time.

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Hallstand – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 001

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Mahogany hallstand with a mirror featuring two umbrella stands, seven turned wooden knobs to hang coats/hats from, shaped base, curved top and turned timber fretwork detailing to top of the stand.

Historical background:

The hall stand is believed to have been constructed in the United Kingdom and was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in c1856. The Hallstand was purchased by the South Australian Government in 1977.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Hallstand):

The hallstand is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The hallstand was purchased from 1856 specifically to furnish the entrance hall at Cummins House and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.



Location at time of provisional listing:

Entry Hall, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue, Novar Gardens 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Owner: Minister for Environment and Water

Owner Address: GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Collard & Collard Grand Piano – Cummins House
Morphett Family Furniture Collection

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 002



Description:

Rosewood grand piano with a range of 7 octaves, repetition action, carved cheeks and legs. Matching rosewood box stool with Berlin wool-work seat cover. The cover is a modern replacement.

Historical background:

During the 1940s the Morphett family contacted Collard and Collard at their premises on New Bond St, London requesting information about the grand piano. A letter dated 20 July 1945 stated that the stock book from 1857 records Mr Fisher's purchase of a 'Rosewood Grand, 7 octaves, repetition action, carved cheeks and legs' for 185 guineas on 16th June 1857. It also notes that there is no statement about where the piano went after it was supplied. Family recollection states that it was a gift from James Hurtle Fisher to his daughter Elizabeth. Fisher died in 1875 and if the piano was not a gift to Elizabeth prior to then it most likely went to Cummins after he died either to Elizabeth or Marianne, her sister. Marianne moved to Cummins after Sir James died. The piano and stool were purchased by the South Australian Government in 1977.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Collard & Collard grand Piano):

The Collard & Collard grand piano and matching box stool are an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and are intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an

intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The piano was most likely a gift to Elizabeth, from her father Sir James Hurtle Fisher, and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Drawing Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue, Novar Gardens 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Owner: Minister for Environment and Water

Owner Address: GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Pair of Settees – Cummins House
Morphett Family Furniture Collection

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 003
& 004



Description:

Carved walnut frames, cabriole front legs scrolling up to form the arm-posts, deeply buttoned upholstered backs, reupholstered in the c1940s and again in the 1990s in yellow damask fabric.

Historical background:

The pair of settees are believed to have been constructed in the United Kingdom and were most likely purchased by the Morphett family in c1856. Historical images of the settees show that they have been reupholstered at least twice, once by Violet Morphett after c.1923 and again by the Cummins Society in the 1990s. The pair of settees were purchased in 1977 by the South Australian Government.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Pair of Settees):

The pair of settees are an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and are intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The pair of settees were purchased from 1856, specifically to furnish the drawing room at Cummins House and have been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Drawing Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Owner: Minister for Environment and Water

Owner Address: GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Armchair – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 005

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Carved walnut frame, cabriole front legs, deeply buttoned upholstered back, reupholstered in c1940s and again in the 1990s with yellow damask fabric.

Historical background:

The armchair is believed to have been constructed in the United Kingdom and was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in c1856. Historical images of the armchair show that it has been reupholstered at least twice, once by Violet Morphett after c.1923 and again by the Cummins Society in the 1990s. The armchair was purchased in 1977 by the South Australian Government, at the same time it purchased Cummins House.



Statement of Heritage Significance (Armchair):

The armchair is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The armchair was purchased from 1856, specifically to furnish the drawing room at Cummins House and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Drawing Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Owner: Minister for Environment and Water

Owner Address: GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Bergere – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 006

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Carved walnut frame, cabriole front legs, deeply buttoned upholstered back, reupholstered in the c1940s and again in the 1990s with yellow damask fabric.

Historical background:

The bergere is believed to have been constructed in the United Kingdom and was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in c1856. Historical images of the bergere show that it has been reupholstered at least twice, once by Violet Morphett after c.1923 and again by the Cummins Society in the 1990s. The bergere was purchased in 1977 by the South Australian Government.



Statement of Heritage Significance (Bergere):

The bergere is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The bergere was purchased from 1856, specifically to furnish the drawing room at Cummins House and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Drawing Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Nov ar Gardens SA 5040.

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Owner: Minister for Environment and Water

Owner Address: GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Circular Salon Couch – Cummins House
Morphett Family Furniture Collection

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 007

Description:

Circular salon couch with deeply upholstered raised back, reupholstered in the 1990s in yellow damask fabric. (Originally the circular salon couch had a deeply buttoned upholstered seat and a heavily pleated skirt, the reupholstering c1940s removed the pleated skirt and substituted the deep buttoning from the seat to the back).



Historical background:

The circular salon couch is believed to have been constructed in the United Kingdom and was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in c1856. Historical images of the circular salon couch show that it has been reupholstered at least three times, once by Elizabeth Morphett in the nineteenth century, once by Violet Morphett after c.1923 and again by the Cummins Society in the 1990s. The circular salon couch was purchased in 1977 by the South Australian Government.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Circular Salon Couch):

The circular salon couch is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The circular salon couch was purchased from 1856, specifically to furnish the drawing room at Cummins House and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Drawing Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Owner: Minister for Environment and Water

Owner Address: GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Drawing Room Curtains – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 008

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Four pairs of brocade curtains with matching brocade and fringe-edged pelmets. Twisted cord and tassel tiebacks.

Historical background:

These curtains replaced the original drawing room curtains in c1880s and have hung at Cummins House since then. The curtains were purchased in 1977 with the house, by the South Australian Government. In the 1990s, the curtains were conserved by Artlab Australia.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Drawing Room Curtains):

The drawing room curtains are an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and are intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by the Morphett family. These curtains were made c.1880s to replace the original drawing room curtains, and have hung in the Cummins House drawing room since then.



Location at time of provisional listing:

Drawing Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Owner: Minister for Environment and Water

Owner Address: GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Over Mantle Mirror – Cummins House
Morphett Family Furniture Collection

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 009

Description:

Victorian classical revival in style the over mantle mirror has a carved wood and gilt frame. It features a pediment top and fluted side members terminating in side fans.

Historical background:

The over mantle mirror is believed to have been constructed in the United Kingdom and was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in c.1856. The over mantle mirror was purchased in 1977 by the South Australian Government, as a part of the fittings and fixtures of Cummins House.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Over Mantle Mirror):

The over mantle mirror is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The over mantle mirror was purchased from 1856, specifically to furnish the drawing room at Cummins House and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Drawing Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Owner: Minister for Environment and Water

Owner Address: GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001



RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Side Table – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 010

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Oblong, walnut side table with a central draw and carved legs.

Historical background:

The side table is believed to have been constructed in the United Kingdom and was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in c.1856. The side table was purchased in 1977 by the South Australian Government.



Statement of Heritage Significance (Side Table):

The side table is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The side table was purchased from 1856, specifically to furnish the drawing room at Cummins House and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Drawing Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Owner: Minister for Environment and Water

Owner Address: GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Marianne Fisher Chair – Cummins House
Morphett Family Furniture Collection

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 011

Description:

Small, low child's chair with ornately carved back and sides, turned legs on castors with pale blue upholstery to the seat and back.

Historical background:

The chair was the property of Marianne Fisher. Marianne arrived in South Australia on the *Buffalo* with her family aged 10 years and was the last 1836 *Buffalo* pioneer when she died in 1927. Marianne cared for the family home on North Terrace (site of the Fowler's Lion Factory) until 1875, when her father Sir James Hurtle Fisher died. Thereafter, Marianne lived at Cummins House (in between her travels) until she passed away in 1927. The chair was reputedly used by her when she was a child and came to Cummins House when she moved there to live with her sister's family.¹ The chair was donated to the Cummins Society by a member of the Morphett Family.



Statement of Heritage Significance (Marianne Fisher Chair):

The chair has a significant association with the early development of South Australia by the Fisher/Morphett family who were foundation colonists. The chair belonged to Marianne Fisher, the daughter of Sir James Hurtle Fisher the first resident commissioner of South Australia and sister of Lady Morphett. Marianne moved to Cummins House to live with her sister after the death of Sir James in 1875. The chair has been used by five generations of the Fisher/Morphett family and is intrinsically related to Cummins House a rare example of a South Australian residence (house and contents) to be occupied and used by one family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Drawing Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Cummins Society Incorporated

c/- Janette Ward (President)

PO Box 507, Plympton SA 5038

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Chair – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 012

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

A low timber framed chair with carved legs on castors. Berlin wool-work upholstery to the seat and back, in leaf design worked by Marianne Fisher.

Historical background:

The chair was the property of Marianne Fisher. Marianne arrived in South Australia on the *Buffalo* with her family aged 10 years and was the last 1836 *Buffalo* pioneer when she died in 1927. Marianne cared for the family home on North Terrace (site of the Fowler's Lion Factory) until 1875, when her father Sir James Hurtle Fisher died. Thereafter, Marianne lived at Cummins House (in between her travels) until she passed away in 1927.² The needlepoint leaf



design was worked by Marianne. The chair is owned by a member of the Morphett family and is on long-term loan to the Cummins Society.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Chair):

The chair has a significant association with the early development of South Australia by the Fisher/Morphett family who were foundation colonists. The chair belonged to Marianne Fisher, the daughter of Sir James Hurtle Fisher the first resident commissioner of South Australia and sister of Lady Morphett. Marianne moved to Cummins House to live with her sister after the death of Sir James in 1875. The Berlin wool-work upholstery was worked by Marianne Fisher in a leaf design and is intrinsically related to Cummins House, a rare example of a South Australian residence (house and contents) to be occupied and used by one family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Drawing Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Nov ar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Marianne Legoe

PO Box 1001, Robe SA 5276

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Shamrock Table – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 013

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Small side table with distinctive cloverleaf-shaped top, covered in velvet and edged in fringing. Three turned timber legs.

Historical background:

The shamrock table is believed to have been constructed in the United Kingdom and was purchased by the Morphett family during the nineteenth century. The shamrock table belongs to a member of the Morphett family and is on long-term loan to the Cummins Society.



Statement of Heritage Significance (Shamrock Table):

The shamrock table is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The shamrock table was purchased, specifically to furnish the drawingroom at Cummins House and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Drawing Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Marianne Legoe

PO Box 1001, Robe SA 5276

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Chiffonier – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 014

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Mahogany chiffonier with two central doors and a mirror above. The body of the chiffonier features beading and applied carved decorations, most notably a daisy motif, which is replicated on the matching dining chairs. The mirror is timber framed and features a curved top. The side members of the frame feature a carved fluted design, while the top features a decorative shield and scrollwork.



Historical background:

The chiffonier is believed to have been constructed in the United Kingdom and was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in c 1856 to furnish the dining room. The chiffonier was purchased in 1977 by the South Australian Government.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Chiffonier):

The chiffonier is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The chiffonier was purchased from 1856, specifically to furnish the dining room at Cummins House and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Dining Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040.

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Minister for Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Dining Table & Twelve Chairs – Cummins House
Morphett Family Furniture Collection

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 015



Description:

Rectangular mahogany dining table with three leaf extension, turned and carved legs on castors. Twelve matching mahogany, shovel-backed, dining chairs, with turned and carved front legs on castors. The backs of the chairs feature a carved daisy motif, which is also a feature of the sideboard. The seats are deeply buttoned leather.

Historical background:

The dining table and twelve matching chairs are believed to have been constructed in the United Kingdom and were most likely purchased by the Morphett family in c1856 to furnish the dining room. The dining table and chairs were purchased in 1977 by the South Australian Government. The chairs have been reupholstered in c.1990.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Dining Table & Twelve Chairs):

The dining table and twelve matching chairs are an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and are intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The dining table and chairs were purchased from 1856, specifically to furnish the dining room at Cummins House and have been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Dining Room, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040).

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Minister for Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Dressing Table – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 016

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Walnut dressing table comprised of a base and top. The base features a central, low shelf and is flanked with a set of four draws on each side. The top features a bevelled mirror with a curved top. The framing of the mirror features carved fluted side members with turned knob-tops and fan motifs carved into the top member of the frame. There is a low shelf beneath the mirror. Matching draw and shelf units flank the mirror and feature turned timber legs, turned knobs and turned timber fretwork. All of the draws in the dressing table have matching brass handles and locks.



Historical background:

The dressing table was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in the latter decades of the nineteenth century as a matching suite of furniture, in the colonial arts and crafts style, for the master bedroom. The dressing table was purchased in 1977 by the South Australian Government.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Dressing Table):

The dressing table is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The dressing table was purchased as a part of a matching suite of master bedroom furniture in the latter decades of the nineteenth century and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Master Bedroom, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Minister for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Wardrobe – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 017

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Three door, walnut wardrobe with centre mirror. Carved fluted detail to front vertical members, carved insets on side doors. The mirror has a curved top and bevelled edges. The frame of the mirrored door features carved fan motifs. Stacked pelmet with carved decorative top featuring a central section of turned fretwork and side sections with a carved arrow-head pattern.



Historical background:

The wardrobe was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in the latter decades of the nineteenth century as a matching suite of furniture, in a colonial arts and crafts style, for the master bedroom. The wardrobe was purchased in 1977 by the South Australian Government.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Wardrobe):

The wardrobe is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The wardrobe was purchased as a part of a matching suite of master bedroom furniture in the latter decades of the nineteenth century and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Master Bedroom, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Minister for Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Washstand – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 018

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Walnut washstand with a white marble top and timber and painted tile splashback. The body of the washstand has two cupboards located on either side of the unit, each with carved feet on castors. The splash back features maroon tiles painted with flowers and butterflies, carved timber sides and a central shelf.



Historical background:

The washstand was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in the latter decades of the nineteenth century as a matching suite of furniture, in a colonial arts and crafts style, for the master bedroom. The washstand was purchased in 1977 by the South Australian Government.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Washstand):

The washstand is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The washstand was purchased as a part of a matching suite of master bedroom furniture in the latter decades of the nineteenth century and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Master Bedroom, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Minister for Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Commode – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 019

Morphett Family Furniture Collection



Description:

Stepped timber commode with glazed ceramic bowl and featuring carpet on each "step".

Historical background:

The commode is believed to have been constructed in the United Kingdom and was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in c.1856. The 'Cummins House Inventory List' prepared by the Cummins Society Inc on 9 September 2001 notes that the commode was donated to 'Cummins by Mr. & Mrs. H Morphett in 1990'. It further notes that the commode was originally a part of the furniture at Cummins House and the carpet on it was formerly from the passage outside the bedroom. The commode was restored by the Cummins Society between 1990 and 2001.

Statement of Heritage Significance (Commode):

The commode is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The commode was purchased from 1856, for the master bedroom at Cummins House and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Master Bedroom, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Cummins Society Incorporated
c/- Janelle Ward (President)

Summary of State Heritage Object: 10552 – 019

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Provisionally entered by the South Australian Heritage Council 16 July 2020

Confirmed by the South Australian Heritage Council 20 May 2021

PO Box 507, Plympton SA 5038

Summary of State Heritage Object: 10552 – 005

Provisionally entered by the South Australian Heritage Council 16 July 2020

Confirmed by the South Australian Heritage Council 20 May 2021

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RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Washstand – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 020

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Cedar washstand with a white marble top. The washstand features turned and carved legs and is set on castors. A low shelf spans the width of the unit. A timber and tile splashback sits on the marble top and features a carved timber frame and white glazed tiles with a blue pattern.

Historical background:

The washstand was most likely purchased by the Morphett family in the latter decades of the nineteenth century and is Edwardian in style. In 1977, the washstand was purchased by the South Australian Government.



Statement of Heritage Significance (Washstand):

The washstand is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The washstand was purchased in the latter decades of the nineteenth century and has been used by multiple generations of the Morphett family.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Bathroom, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Minister for Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

RECORD OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

Mangle – Cummins House

OBJECT NO.: 10552 – 021

Morphett Family Furniture Collection

Description:

Horizontal box mangle made by E Weir, London. The mangle is a timber framed table with a large wooden box situated on top of the frame. A metal turn shaft, fitted horizontally across the table and turned by a large wheel set on the side of the table, propels the box across the table smoothing and flattening the clothing set on rollers underneath it.



Historical background:

The mangle was purchased by the Morphett family for use at Cummins House and was later bought by the South Australian Government in 1977.

Mangles of this type were typically weighted with stones and were used to press cloths and linen flat rather than to wring water from them. They were mostly used in wealthy households or by 'mangle women' or 'mangle keepers' who operated them in laundry businesses and charged a fee for use.³

Statement of Heritage Significance (Mangle):

The mangle is an integral part of the Morphett Family Furniture collection and is intrinsically related to Cummins House. Cummins House and the collection of furniture is a rare example of an intergenerational property built and furnished by foundation colonists Sir John and Lady Elizabeth Morphett. The mangle was purchased from 1856, for use in the Cummins laundry and is important example of the domestic work undertaken by the servants employed by the Morphett's.

Location at time of provisional listing:

Laundry, Cummins House, 19-23 Sheoak Avenue Novar Gardens SA 5040

Owner & Address at time of provisional listing:

Minister for Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

Physical Description

See individual Record of State Heritage Object sheets.

History of the Place

The following history of Cummins House and the Morphett family is abridged from the 'Cummins House Conservation Management Plan' prepared by Weidenhofer Architects in 1997. Supplementary information is taken from the booklet 'Historic Cummins House' prepared by the Cummins Society.

Development of Cummins House

Cummins was the home of the Morphett family for nearly 150 years and was built by John (later Sir) and Elizabeth Morphett in the early 1840s. It was extended in 1854 and again in 1905 (the Cummins Society state it was 1906).

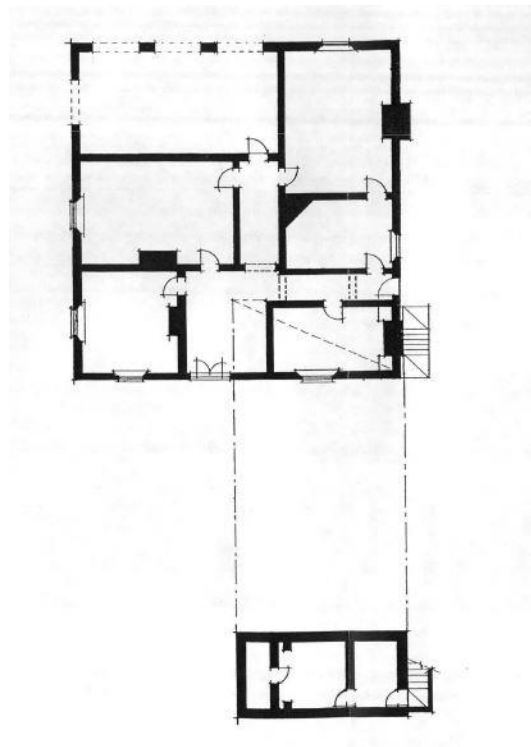
John Morphett arrived in South Australia on the *Cygnets* in 1836. He was the son of a solicitor and entered practice in the law before migrating to South Australia as a land agent. His wife Elizabeth (later Lady Morphett) was the daughter of James Hurtle Fisher (later sir), the first Resident Commissioner. The Fishers, including Elizabeth and her younger sister Marianne, arrived at Holdfast Bay on the *Buffalo* with Governor Hindmarsh and his party on 28th December 1836.

John and Elizabeth were married on 15 August 1838 and purchased section 152 on 29 September 1839. The couple initially lived in Adelaide where their first children were born before moving to the property by 1842. The historical accounts vary about the size of the house suggesting that it was initially either 2 or 5 rooms. However, a painting c1850 indicates that by then the brick house was 5 rooms and featured a loggia.



Cummins House c 1848 by JM Skipper

Source: National Gallery of Australia NGA 2012.1850



Cummins House Floor Plan 1842-1850

Source: 'Cummins House Conservation Management Plan' 1997

The designs of the house in 1842-1850 and its major extension in 1854 are both attributed to George Strickland Kingston. Morphett and Kingston knew each other well, both having come to South Australia aboard the *Cygnets*, and Morphett lived in

Summary of State Heritage Object: 10552 – 001-021

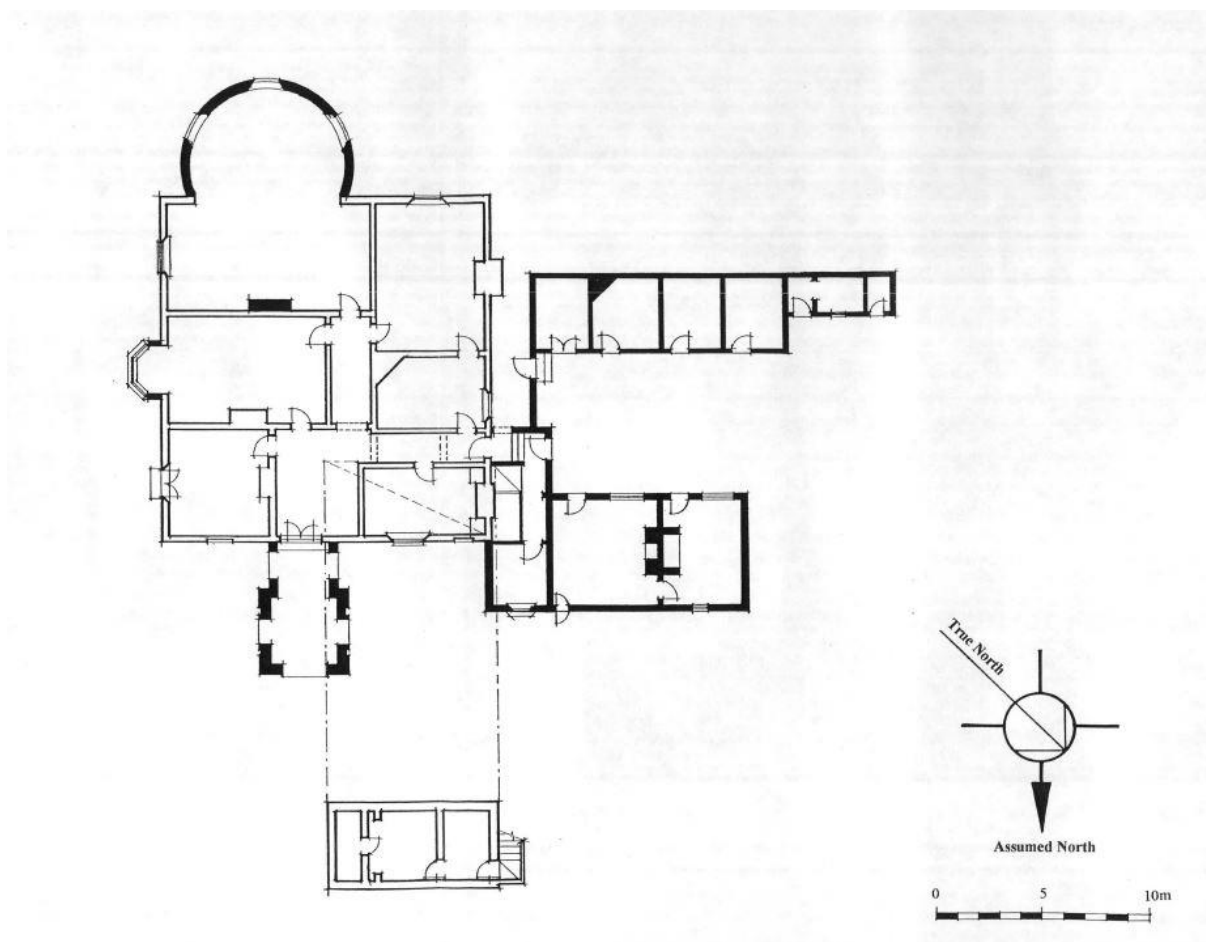
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Kingston's house during 1837 while Kingston was in the UK. The bricks used for the construction of both stages are believed to have come from the brickyard and pug mill that John Morphett operated from the late 1830s.⁴ The 1854 extension included:

- the addition of an arcaded porch,
- the conversion of the loggia into the almost circular bay that became the drawing room,
- the addition of a smaller bay window in the dining room,
- the replacement of the window in the morning room with French windows,
- the addition of a bathroom,
- the addition of a series of rooms either side of an open courtyard on the western side of the house (the Cummins Society states that this wing was the servants quarters, servants parlour and kitchen. Weidenhofer disputes that all of the rooms in this wing were built for servants as if this was the case the Morphett's servants were better accommodated than their 11 children),
- the construction of various outbuildings including a cellar, dairy, stables (now demolished), a lodge at the entrance of the property (now demolished) and possibly a school room.



Cummins House 1854 additions

Source: 'Cummins House Conservation Management Plan' 1997

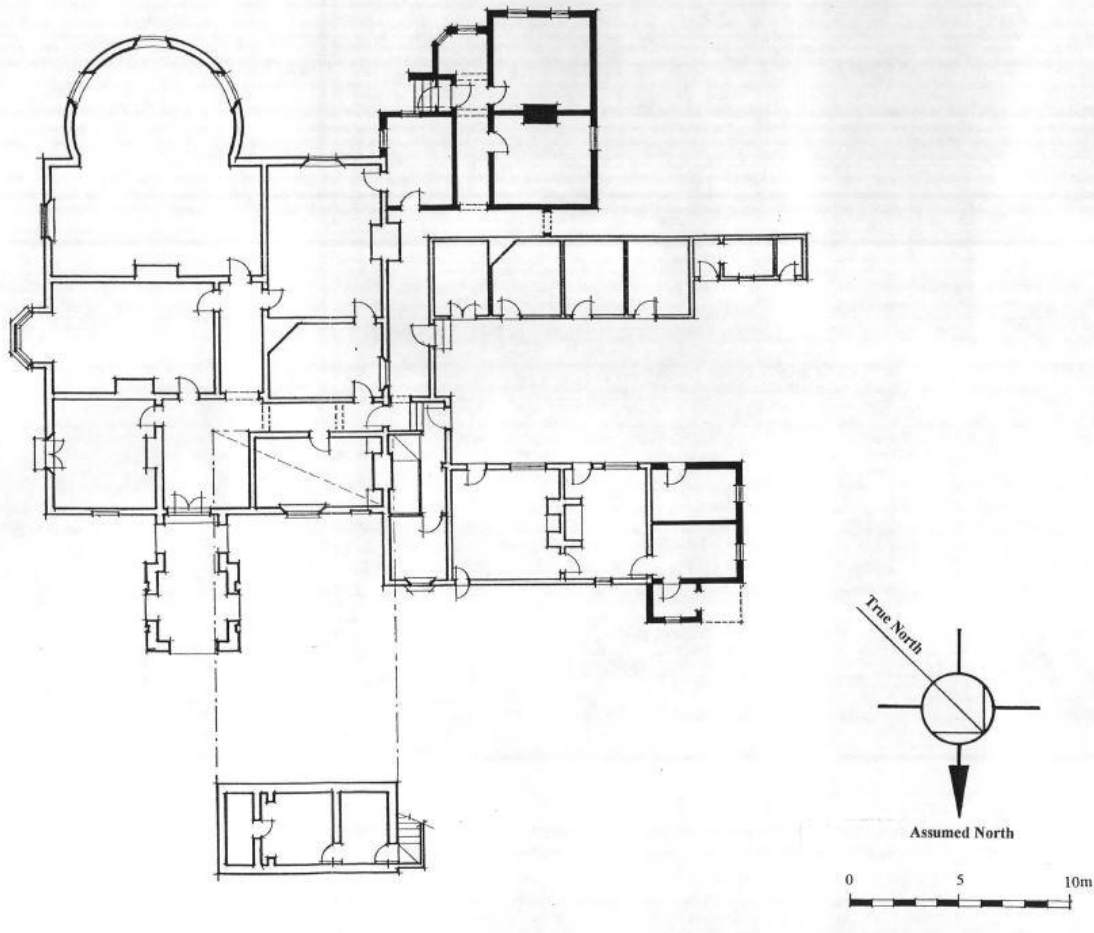
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Sir John died in 1892 and ownership of Cummins passed to his son John Cummins Morphett. In 1905, the house was again extended with the addition of two bedrooms and a lobby at the southern end of the house on what had been the verandah. An ensuite bathroom was added to the master bedroom, and a pantry and scullery to the western wall of the kitchen. The courtyard was also enclosed with a roof and wall at its western end.



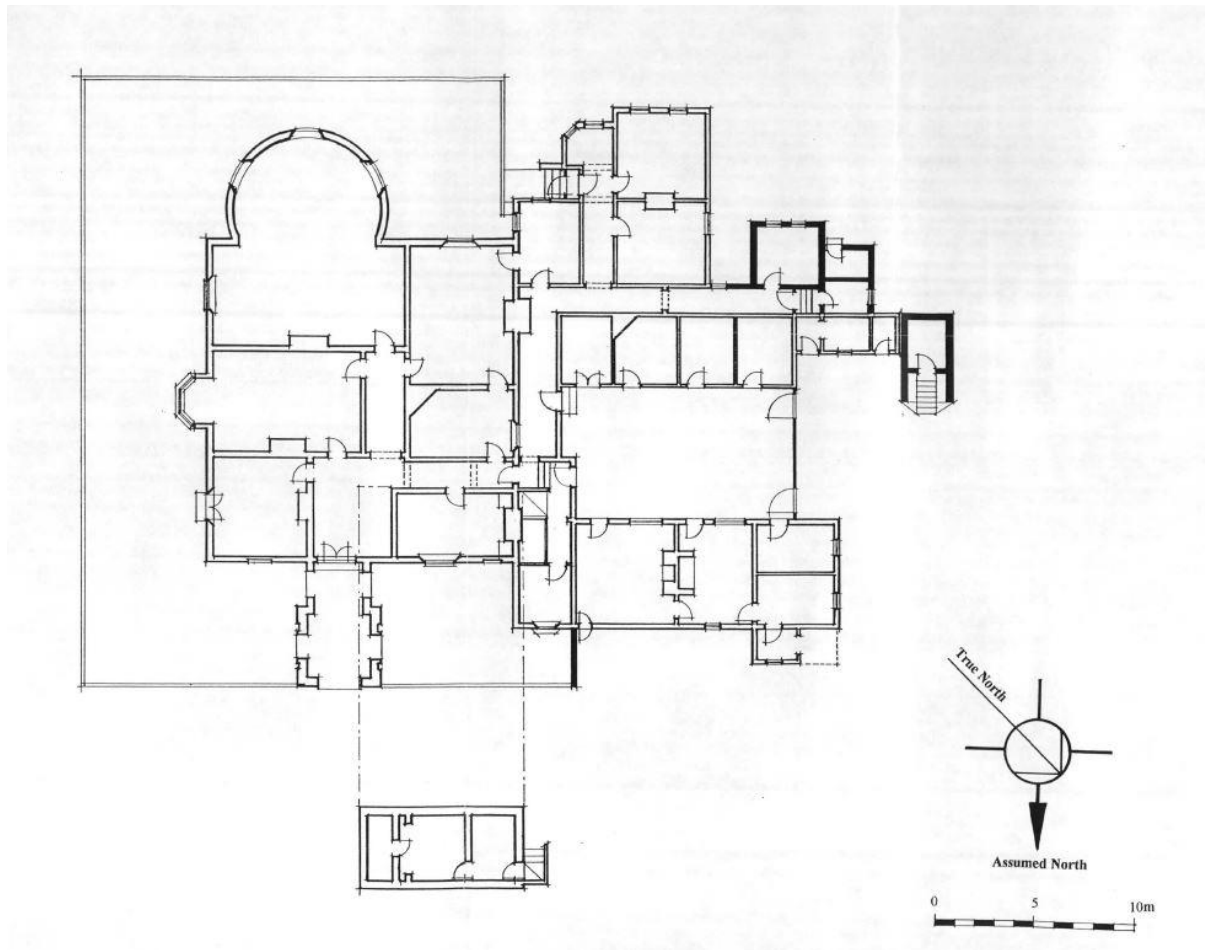
Cummins House 1905 additions

Source: 'Cummins House Conservation Management Plan' 1997

George C Morphett, Sir John's grandson, inherited the property after the death of his father in 1936 and in 1945 added another bathroom and toilet at the western end of the house. At some point in time after c.1923 Violet, George's wife redecorated the drawing room, including repapering the walls using a traditional Victorian pattern and reupholstering the soft furnishings.⁵

In 1963, the property passed to Hurtle Cummins Morphett, Sir John's great grandson. In the late 1970s Hurtle Morphett offered the property for sale and it was purchased by the South Australian government in 1977. The Public Buildings Department restored the property, converted part of the 1905 addition into a caretakers flat and built a toilet block for visitors.

The government had initially proposed using Cummins House to accommodate State guests, however it was little used until leased to Immanuel College between 1983 and 1988, who used it as an education/resource centre. The Cummins Society was formed in 1984 and began to establish the house as a museum to the Morphett family. The school no longer uses the building and it is run as a historic house museum and a venue for private functions. The City of West Torrens leased Cummins House for approximately 30 years and chose not to renew its lease in 2019. Upkeep of the displays inside the house and the grounds is undertaken by the Cummins Society.



Cummins House additions between 1905 and 1982

Source: 'Cummins House Conservation Management Plan' 1997

Morphett Family Furniture Collection (Provenance)

When the South Australian government purchased Cummins House, it also bought a number of pieces of antique furniture from the Morphett family. With the exception of the Collard and Collard grand piano and stool, there is no evidence to definitively identify when the furniture was purchased. However, using research undertaken by Dulcie Perry that was based on the recollections and the private notes of the Morphett family, the Cummins Society states that the furniture was acquired by the Morphett's to furnish the house after it was extended in 1854. Mrs Elizabeth Morphett and 10 of

the children travelled to the United Kingdom in 1855 and spent approximately 18 months there. Elizabeth returned with the latest furnishings including a Brussels carpet for the drawing room.⁶

Images from the late nineteenth century, early twentieth century and 1970s show that the drawing room furniture including the curtains have been at Cummins House at least since the c.1870s.⁷ However, some of the furniture such as the master bedroom suite and bathroom washstand stylistically appear to be newer and possibly date from the 1880s-early 1900s.

While not all the of the furniture presented in the description above and proposed for listing as State Heritage Objects dates from the mid-1850s, it is strongly linked to other members of the Morphett family and forms a part of the history of the Morphett's and Cummins House.

The furniture acquired by the South Australian Government at the time it purchased the property includes:

- Victorian hallstand
- Collard & Collard grand piano and stool
- Pair of Victorian settees
- Victorian armchair
- Victorian bergere
- Circular salon couch
- Oblong window table (side table)
- Victorian mahogany sideboard
- Victorian mahogany extension table and 12 chairs
- Bedroom suite including matching wardrobe, dressing table and washstand
- Cedar washstand
- Horizontal clothes mangle

Chronology

1835	John Morphett has become an outspoken advocate for colonisation of South Australia.
September 1836	John Morphett arrives in South Australia on the <i>Cygnets</i> .
28 December 1836	Elizabeth Fisher arrives at Holdfast Bay on the <i>Buffalo</i> travelling with her family including James Hurtle Fisher her father and the colony's First Resident Commissioner.
10 February 1837	Morphett's block of votes is decisive in confirming the site for the City of Adelaide.
July 1837	John Morphett joins the committee which establishes the <i>Southern Australian</i> .

- 15 August 1838 John Morphett and Elizabeth Fisher marry at Trinity Church, North Adelaide.
- 1839 Morphett plays a part in selecting six special surveys for his friends in England and the Secondary Town Association.
- 29 September 1839 John and Elizabeth purchase section 152, (134 acres) (now Novar Gardens).**
- 1842 First stage of Cummins House is built.**
- 1843 John Morphett is one of the first non-official nominees for the Legislative Council.
- 1844 Morphett assists in the formation of the Agricultural Society.
- August 1851 John Morphett is elected speaker of the Legislative Assembly.
- 1854 Cummins House undergoes a substantial renovation.
- 1855 Elizabeth and the children travel to the UK where the family purchases furnishings for their extended home.**
- 1857 John Morphett is elected to the Legislative Council in the Colony's first election.
- 1861 John Morphett become Chief Secretary but resigns because he cannot support moves to dismiss Judge Benjamin Boothby.
- 1865 Morphett becomes president of the Legislative Council.
- 1870 John Morphett is knighted.
- 1873 Morphett retires from politics.
- 1878 A parcel of land is sold from the Cummins property for the Glenelg Railway Line.
- 7 November 1892 John Morphett dies at Cummins House. His son John Cummins Morphett inherits the Cummins property.**
- 1905 Cummins House is extended again.**
- 6 May 1905 Elizabeth Morphett dies at Cummins House.**
- 1919 25 acres south of the Glenelg Railway line is sold to create Camden reserve.
- c.1923 George and Violet Morphett begin residing at Cummins House and Violet redecorates the drawing room.⁸**
- 1936 John Cummins Morphett dies and his son George C Morphett inherits Cummins House.**
- 1945 George C Morphett adds a bathroom and toilet to the western end of the house.

- 1953 45 acres is sold from Cummins to the Lutheran church for Immanuel College.
- 1963 George dies and Cummins House is inherited by his son Hurtle Cummins Morphett.**
- 1964 31 acres of the Cummins property is sold for a housing estate.
- 1976-1977 Cummins House is offered for sale, after no buyers emerge the South Australian government purchases the property to prevent its demolition for subdivision. The purchase was finalised in January 1977: the house was bought for \$195,135 and a further \$10,135 was spent acquiring the antique furniture.**
- 1983 Cummins is leased to Immanuel College for five years.
- 1984 Cummins Society forms, establishes a house museum and begins tours of the house and garden.**
- c1989-2019 City of West Torrens leases Cummins House.
- 2019 Ownership of Cummins House transferred to Minister for Environment and Water.**

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¹ 'Last of Her Line', *Register* 28 December 1922, p.9. 'Our Grand Old Lady', *Observer* 1 January 1927, p.42. 'Beloved Colonist', *News* 18 June 1927, p.1.

² 'Last of Her Line', *Register* 28 December 1922, p.9. 'Our Grand Old Lady', *Observer* 1 January 1927, p.42. 'Beloved Colonist', *News* 18 June 1927, p.1.

³ The West Parry Sound District Museum, 'In Our Collection - Wringer'
http://www.museumontowerhill.com/CMSData/UserData/In%20Our%20Collection/In%20Our%20Collection_Week8.pdf

⁴ No historical records have been found to indicate where the bricks came from or to confirm that Kingston did design the house.

⁵ State Library of South Australia images of Cummins House Accession Nos. B17398 and B22143.

⁶ Miller, 'Historic Cummins House' 'Departure of Old Colonists' *Register* 27 December 1855, p.2.
'Shipping Intelligence Arrived', *Register* 23 September 1857, p.2.

⁷ Steering committee report, images from SLSA add here and Historic Cummins House inventory

⁸ Pers com. Marianne Legoe (nee Morphett), September 2020.