

**SA Heritage Register Nomination**

**Public Works Department WW1 Honor Board**  
**Torrens Building, Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga**  
**Adelaide.**



September 2019

## **SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**


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**SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**

I wish to acknowledge that the Public Works Department Honor Board  
and the Torrens Building are located adjacent to Tarndanyangga  
(Victoria Square), which is the site of ceremony and ritual of the Kaurna people,  
the traditional custodians of the Adelaide Plains.

I offer this nomination out of respect for the Kaurna elders both past, present and future  
and also the service and sacrifice of all those listed on the board.

  
September 2019

## SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board

### A. Nominated object

#### 1. Name of object: Public Works Department WW1 Honor Board

No known other/former name

The object is not on any heritage list at present.

#### 2. Location:

202-220 Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga

Adelaide S.A. 5000

Adelaide City Council

Land description: CT5896/686 D27841 A5

Title reference: CT5896/686

Valuation No: 0205733101

Volume:

Folio:

Parcel type:

Parcel No:

Plan type: Plan No:

Section: 16

Hundred: Adelaide

GPS:

Longitude: 138.6011352

Latitude: - 34.9277102

Plan Parcel: D27841 A5  
Unit No:  
Street No: 200-220  
Street Name: VICTORIA  
Street Type: SQ  
Suburb: ADELAIDE  
Title Ref: CT5896/686  
Valuation No: 0205733101  
Crown Ref:  
Hundred: ADELAIDE  
PARCEL\_IDENTIFIER: D27841A5  
SAILIS: [Link](#)  
Parcel Report: [Print report](#) 

Show on screen

#### 3. Building ownership:

[REDACTED]

#### Contact person:

[REDACTED]

#### Postal address:

#### Phone number:

**Building ownership history:** In 1881 when the building was completed, the Minister of Public Works was Hon. James Ramsay. In 1919 when the honour board was unveiled, the Commissioner of Public Works was Hon. G. Ritchie. The names of both the building and the minister responsible for the building have undergone numerous changes since 1881. In that time, the building has continued to be in the custody of the minister responsible for the department/s.

[REDACTED]

#### 4. Nominator

Nominated by

[REDACTED]

Written & edited by

[REDACTED]

Consultant Historical Archaeologist:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## **SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**

### **B. 5 Current or long term threats to the nominated object.**

The Public Works Department Honor Board was unveiled in the northern corridor of the ‘new government’ building, now known as the Torrens Building, in May 1919. It is thought that the board may have been placed in government storage from 1993 to 1997 during extensive renovation work to the building, and then relocated to its current position in a southern corridor.

There is damage to the lower sections of the timber panels that may have occurred when the board was stored and relocated, and paint has been splashed on the sides of the board, perhaps when the walls were repainted. The board looks as though it has been cleaned with a cloth in a circular motion at some stage.

There is no known formal assessment of the condition of the board or its preservation needs.

Potential current and long-term threats that may cause splitting or warping of the timber and deterioration of the gilding and paintwork include:

- dust accumulation
- insect damage
- temperature variations caused by ducted A/C and the impact of hotter and longer summers
- continuous daytime lighting, particularly the spotlights
- moisture variations in the air

Other potential threats to the integrity of the board include fire and smoke damage, poor plumbing or exceptional rainfalls causing water damage and cracking from earth movements. The risk of a fire is minimized by regular updates of the fire precautions for tenants and fire alarms placed around the building.

The ANZAC Portal section on care and protection of honour boards suggests that,

**“Honour boards made from wood are susceptible to mould and insect attack and should be protected from moisture and changes in temperature, which can cause warping, splitting and cracking.**

**When on display, regularly cleaning with a soft cloth and/or vacuum cleaner with a small nozzle is recommended to prevent dust build-up that will attract insects. In storage, protect the board with a dust cover made from washed cotton sheeting”.**

However, due to the size and location of the board, most of the above recommendations may not be feasible on a regular basis.

### **Sources:**

<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/multimedia/publications/memories-and-memorabilia/preserving-australias-war-heritage/honour-boards> Accessed 11.2.2019

Caring for War Memorials. Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. Queensland Government 2014 [https://www.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0029/67475/caring-for-war-memorials.pdf](https://www.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0029/67475/caring-for-war-memorials.pdf) Accessed 4.2.2019

Parsons, Alexander. 2017. Torrens Building. <http://adelaide.sa.gov.au/places/torrens-building-0> Accessed 15.4.2019

**SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**  
**B. 5 Description of object and its current condition**



Image: Public Works Department Honor Board. [REDACTED] Adelaide 2018

**Background**

**“Rolls of Honour” and “Honour Rolls”**

Early in the war the Public Works Department was entrusted with the duty of designing, collecting data for, and erecting honour roll boards for the various Government departments (excepting the Railways and Supreme Court), which sent men to the war. Accordingly, boards were prepared and erected in connection with the following Ministerial departments: Chief Secretary's Office, Public Works, Attorney General, Crown Lands, Education and Agriculture. Also a special board for the Government Printing Office.

The department has also prepared boards somewhat on the same lines for various schools where money has been subscribed by the residents for the purpose. It has assisted local councils in advice and service for memorials.

"I have been very particular in keeping separate, under their special and proper headings, the names of men who gave their lives in the war under the head of 'Roll of Honour', writes Mr. C. E. Owen Smyth. In the English language 'Roll of Honour' can only apply in one way, viz., embodying the names of men who have been killed in the war. The main board, carrying the names of all men who enlisted and went to the front, is termed properly the 'Honor Roll'. It is a regrettable fact that the general public do not distinguish this very material difference in erecting honour rolls throughout the country".

*(The Register (Adelaide), 5th November 1919 p.6)*

**Description**

The Public Works Department Honor Board is the largest of the seven state government honor boards mentioned above, and one of only four of these boards whose whereabouts is known. The board is on the ground floor of the heritage-listed Torrens Building (originally 'new' government offices), Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga, Adelaide. It is currently on the wall of a narrow corridor, which leads in a southerly direction from the main entrance from King William St. The board is approximately 2.75m high and 4.15 wide and 1.8m from the ground.

According to the report in the Adelaide Observer, Saturday 31 May 1919, p. 32, the board is made from walnut. It was designed by Mr A.J. Lavender, a draftsman with the Public Buildings Department.

Miss Blanche Francis, an Adelaide artist and woodcarver, painted the two scenes in oil on the topmost panel and her initials, 'B.F.', are painted in gold directly underneath the word 'droit' and the Royal Coat of Arms. It is thought also that she may have painted the other images on the board.

It is not known who was responsible for the lettering of the 497 names.

The board comprises fourteen distinct panels and one small plaque.

1. The top arched panel comprises:

1.1 The Royal Coat of Arms for King George V in the centre.

1.2 To its left facing the board, are the Union Jack and French flag, and possibly part of the Australian flag, used only by the army or government at that time. The Union Jack and French flags are mounted on gold coloured spear finials and gold tassels.

1.3 In front of the flags is an 18 pounder QF gun and approximately twenty-two shells either upright or lying on their side.

1.4 To the left of the flags is a scene painted in oils of a still smoldering church with a steeple or a cathedral surrounded by a ruined township. Location unknown.

1.5 To the right of the Royal Coat of Arms facing the board are the Union Jack, and French flag and Australian flag used only by the army or government at that time. Each flag is mounted on gold coloured spear finials and gold tassels.

1.6 To the right of the flags is another 18 pounder QF gun and slightly different arrangement of shells.

1.7 To the right of the flags is a warship with three funnels at sea. The ship is "looking at the bow wave", with a "small yacht sailing on the port tack". The "Jackstaff right in the eyes of the ship is up", with "secondary armament down the side of the ship and anti-torpedo net booms are stored".

1.8 There are two carved scrolls at each side of the topmost arched panel, which are identical to the scrolls that were originally on the three government honor boards in the Adina Hotel, (former Treasury Building), the Peterborough Primary School Honor Board, and the now missing Education Department Honor Board.

Note: At the time of the board's unveiling, the numerous newspaper reports suggested a range of possible identities for the naval vessel painted by Miss Francis, but after extensive consultation with naval historians and a marine archaeologist, it has been concluded that the scenes are more likely to be impressions of the artist. Likewise it has not been possible to identify the war torn township.

2. The Commissioner of Public Works title panel sits directly below the top panel and comprises a British and Australian flag painted on either side of a red ribband, with the title "Commissioner of Public Works". Below the title are the words, "Names of those who have enlisted for service in the Australian Imperial Forces". The dates 1914 -1919 are inserted on either side of the words "in the".

3. The Roll of Honour title panel is directly below the Commissioner of Public Works title panel, and displays two A.I.F. soldiers with their heads bowed and their rifles at rest and reversed. A wreath thought to be of laurel leaves and a crown are painted in the centre of the words 'The Roll of Honor'. Below this are the words "He died the noblest death a man can die, Fighting for God, for truth, and loyalty, and such a death is immortality", and on the bottom line are the words from The Roman poet Horace's Odes (3.2.13), "Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori".

4. The Roll of Honor name panel is in the center of the board below the Roll of Honour title panel, and lists the names of 52 men who died.



5. Ten panels contain the 497 names of men who enlisted from the following sections of the Public Works Department:


- Public Works Office
- Engineer in Chief's Department
- Hydraulic Engineer's Department
- Works and Buildings Department
- Harbours Board
- Supply and Tenders Board
- Department of Aborigines
- Minister of Mines

The Roll of Honour list of the 52 men who died is not in alphabetical order. Not all the names on the remaining 12 panels are in alphabetical order.

6. At the very bottom of the board is a small plaque in a different material. The plaque of three lines reads, "This board was unveiled on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1919 by the Viscountess Jellicoe on the occasion of the visit of Admiral of the Fleet Viscount Jellicoe, GCE. OM, GCEO, RN. The Hon. Geo. Ritchie, M.P. being Commissioner of Public Works".

### **Current condition**

Due to its height and the narrow nature of the corridor, it is not possible to make an assessment of the condition of the board without trained personnel, appropriate equipment and other items such as high quality binoculars and a high, stable ladder or scaffold. Permission from the owners and caretakers of the building needs to be obtained, and the assessment would also require the spotlights (at least), to be turned off.

However, if the original high-resolution image taken  in 2018 is enlarged, it can be seen that

- the lettering in gold on all fourteen panels is legible
- the colour of the paintings has been mostly retained
- the oil paintings, particularly the two topmost scenes, appear cracked
- there are numerous scratches and splashes of indoor paint on the outer edges of the board
- the wood of the Roll of Honour List panel in particular appears to have been cleaned with a circular motion.

### **Sources:**

<http://aboriginalww1veteransofsouthaustralia.blogspot.com/> Accessed 10.2.2019

Christeen Schoepf and Marigold Francis (2018) Unpublished paper. *Lady Jellicoe and the unveiling of the Public Works Department Honor Board*

<http://adelaide.sa.gov.au/places/torrens-building-0> Accessed 11.2.2019

Kartinyeri, Doreen. 1996. Ngarrindjeri Anzacs. Aboriginal Family History Project South Australian Museum and Raukkan Council.

<https://www.awm.gov.au/articles/blog/aboriginal-presence-on-gallipoli-grows> Accessed 11.2.2019

Express and Telegraph 27.5.1919, p1

Email communication Jonathan Brett Young 2017, 2018 and 2019

Email communication Jason Coulter Adware Flags and Flagpoles Melbourne  
15.4.2019

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Coats\\_of\\_arms\\_of\\_King\\_George\\_V\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_Kingdom#/media/File:Coat\\_of\\_Arms\\_of\\_Edward\\_VII\\_and\\_George\\_V\\_of\\_United\\_Kingdom\\_\(Spanish\\_Variant\).svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Coats_of_arms_of_King_George_V_of_the_United_Kingdom#/media/File:Coat_of_Arms_of_Edward_VII_and_George_V_of_United_Kingdom_(Spanish_Variant).svg) Accessed 29.4.2019

Chronicle, Saturday 14 September 1918, page 25

Advertiser, Wednesday 25 November 1914, page 7

Chronicle, Saturday 3 February 1917, page 29



## **SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**

### **B. 5 Modifications or additions to the object**

There is one known addition to the original board since its unveiling, as according to the SA Journal 27.5. 1919, p1, the Hon. G. Ritchie, Commissioner of Public Works, was to have unveiled the board, but “took advantage of Lady Jellicoe’s visit to Adelaide to request that, she should undertake the office. Lady Jellicoe readily accepted the invitation”.

The Advertiser 28.5.1919 p.7 also referred to the last minute arrangement by reporting that “ Lady Jellicoe graciously consented to unveil during her stay in Adelaide an honor board”, and that “Her name would be placed on the board as a record of a most auspicious occasion”.

A small plaque to this effect was subsequently attached to the base of the board. However, when this was done is not known. There are no known images of the board or its unveiling before the board was photographed by an employee of the DTPI on 14.3.2017. The board was subsequently professionally photographed in January 2018 [REDACTED], who kindly has given copyright [REDACTED].

Although there are no other known intentional modifications to the board since May 1919, the board was relocated at some stage, as it was unveiled on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1919 in the “northern corridor” (Advertiser 28.5.1919 p.7), and when first observed by the applicants in March 2017, it was on a wall of a southern corridor.

It is assumed that the board remained in its original position until the refurbishment of the building commenced c1993, when it may have been placed in storage until the re-opening c1997. The indoor paint marks, scratched timber and rubbing marks mentioned under ‘Current condition’ may have occurred if the board was in storage, or when it was moved to its present location.

[REDACTED], (Manager, Strategic Leases Development Division, Property Directorate, Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure), was appointed after the refurbishment, and no relevant documentation was provided by his predecessor who is now retired.

[REDACTED] has been notified of the nomination. However, the ministerial office has not yet been contacted.

### **Sources**

Thomas Morgan, Email communications. 2018 and 2019.

<http://adelaide.sa.gov.au/places/torrens-building-0> Accessed 11.2.2019

Christeen Schoepf and Marigold Francis (2018) Unpublished paper. *Lady Jellicoe and the unveiling of the Public Works Department Honor Board*.

Ms Julie Tree, Phone communications and photograph. March 2017

Peter Barnes, Email communication 15.2.2018

**SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**  
**B. 5 Current use of the object**

The Public Works Department Honor Board is a fixed asset in the heritage listed Torrens Building, Adelaide, and can be visited by members of the public on weekdays from 9-5pm. Private tenants currently use some parts of the building.

The honour board is a public memorial for 497 employees of the South Australian Department of Public Works who enlisted in the First World War. As an object of cultural and historical interest, it is available for public and private research, educational visits by students and teachers and for family history purposes.

The only known documentation about the board is from newspaper reports at the time, one brief reference to the board by Christobel Mattingley and Ken Hampton in the book 'Survival in Our Own Land: "Aboriginal" Experiences in "South Australia" since 1836, told by Nungas and others', and an unpublished article written in 2018 by the family of the board's artist, Miss Blanche Francis.

It is possible that as a result of email communication with a number of organisations, the Public Works Department Honour Board is now mentioned as part of the 'Old Treasury and Tunnels' Tour, as the three honour boards in the Adina Hotel (formerly known as the Treasury Building), also belong to the group of seven boards commissioned by the state government early in WW1. There are very strong connections between the four boards, as Adelaide artist and woodcarver Blanche Francis who was commissioned to paint the war scenes on the Public Works Honour Board, also painted her initials under some of the artwork on the boards in the Adina Hotel and aspects of their design are similar.

In May 2018, an album commemorating the 1919 visit to Adelaide of Lady Gwendoline Jellicoe and the unveiling of the board was presented to her grandson Hon. Nicholas Jellicoe at the A.G.M of the H.M.S Hood Association in Plymouth. The album, which has extensive information about the board's history, was then to be passed on by Nicholas Jellicoe to the Cayzer family archives.

May 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 will mark the centenary of the board's unveiling by Lady Jellicoe.

The board does not seem to be currently recognized by Adelaide cultural historians however, and is not known to be mentioned in current Indigenous South Australian veteran documentation. It is not on the Virtual War Memorial Australia website.

The board has potential use for teachers for peace studies and the civic history curriculum, art and community historians, archaeologists, archivists, defence services research, and reconciliation and family history projects such as the Aboriginal Heritage Project. It could also become part of Adelaide's cultural tourism focus, especially during South Australia's History Month.

**Sources:**

Mattingley, Christobel and Hampton, Ken. 1988. *Survival in Our Own Land: "Aboriginal" Experiences in "South Australia" since 1836, told by Nungas and others*. Wakefield Press, Adelaide. p.285

<http://www.reconciliationsa.org.au/assets/media/Forgotten%20Heroes.pdf> Accessed 12.2.2019

<http://www.samuseum.sa.gov.au/research/aboriginal-heritage-project> Accessed 12.2.2019

[https://sarcib.ww1.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/soldier/roland-winzel-carter#https://sarcib.ww1.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/soldier\\_portrait/AWM2017.727.1.3\\_Carter\\_RW\\_crop.jpg](https://sarcib.ww1.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/soldier/roland-winzel-carter#https://sarcib.ww1.collections.slsa.sa.gov.au/sites/default/files/soldier_portrait/AWM2017.727.1.3_Carter_RW_crop.jpg) Accessed 12.2.2019

<https://veteranssa.sa.gov.au/story/think-piece-roland-carter-in-the-great-war/> Accessed 12.2.2019

Register 5.11. 1919 p.6

Phone conversation  
Ms Julie Tree 2017

Email communication:  
Dr. Peter Monteath 2017  
Dr Adam Paterson 2017  
Mr. David Hanna 2017  
Ms Melissa Barnes 2017  
John Ford 2017  
John Smith 2017  
Dr. Jill McKenzie 2018  
Jeremy Lattin 2018  
Mr Rojas, Manager Adina Apartment Hotel. 2018  
Forwarded from Hon Nicholas Jellicoe to Mr. Jonathan Brett Young 2018  
Peter Barnes 2018  
Jonathan Brett Young 2017-1919  
Rev. Andrew Minter 2019  
Reconciliation SA 2019  
Tony Rosella 2019  
Dr Judith McKay 2019  
Jason Coulter Adware Flags and Flagpoles Melbourne 2019  
Christine Schoepf Community Historian 2017-2019  
Thomas Morgan 2017 -2019

## **SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**

### **B. 5 Original or former use/s of the object**

Although the Public Works Department board was not unveiled until May 1919, it was tendered with another seven government boards “early in the war” according to Mr. C. E. Owen Smyth, superintendent of the Public Works Department at that time. (Register 5.11.1919 p.6).

By early 1915, the decision to honour those who had joined the First Australian Imperial Force on a board was already evident in many country towns around South Australia. The sentiment expressed in the following article is typical of the thinking of the state government, local councils and their communities.

#### **A ROLL OF HONOR.**

**Gawler might adopt a suggestion made in other country towns, by contemporaries to the effect that a record be kept of the names of residents of the district who have joined the expeditionary forces, and gone to fight the battles of Empire in the great European struggle. A large board could be placed in the Town Hall, or some other suitable public building with the names of our heroes painted thereon.**

**It would be of historical interest, and a fitting tribute to those who have answered the call of duty. It might also inspire others who are eligible to go and have not yet enlisted to do so. It would perhaps bring home to them the fact that those whose names appear on the list are fighting for the safety and welfare of those who stop at home. Many who have volunteered have made great sacrifices, and enlisted with a full knowledge of that fact, because duty called them. The board would be open to public inspection, and it would be with a sense of pride that parents would take their friends into the building and point to the names of their sons, nephews and cousins on the roll of honor.**

**It would be public recognition, too of their patriotism. The greatest difficulty would be in the collection of the names, for no one should be left out, but with the assistance of the military authorities and parents that could be overcome. We would be pleased to receive the names of volunteers from this district, with their addresses and any other particulars.**

*Bunyip (Gawler, SA), Friday 14 May 1915, page 2*

Six of the seven government boards whose tenders “early in the war” were mentioned in the Register (5. 11.1919 p.6), were unveiled before the signing of the Treaty of Versailles in June 1919, the first being the Education Department board. At its unveiling in January 1918, the premier (Hon. A.H. Peake) stated that “the board had been an inspiration as once it had been erected more men had enlisted, and no doubt it would act upon others similarly”. (The Journal 22.1.1918 p1)

The Journal also reported that the Education Department had “made a large contribution to the patriotic cause, and had answered nobly to the call to King and country. The spirit which had induced so many Australians to go to the war was not yet dead, and it only remained for others equally as fit as those who had gone to the front to have their emotions touched in the same way to answer to the call.”

Like all seven boards, the Public Works Department Honor Board with its central Honor Roll was originally intended to be a way of publicly recognising those men who had enlisted, served and died early in the war, and to encourage others to volunteer their service. However, it was not unveiled until May 1919.

The board, which comprises 497 names and two hand painted scenes in oils is the largest and most unique of the seven government honour boards with tenders “early in the war”. It would also have been the most costly and time consuming to produce, which may explain in part, why its unveiling occurred later than intended.

Although the early intention for the Public Works Honour Board to contribute to recruitment was not able to be realized, during the historic and highly public occasion of its unveiling, Commissioner Ritchie acknowledged that the men listed on the board "...were among the first in the field" and "sprang to duty by no other pressure than that from within. They answered the call because they realised the Empire's need for their assistance, and they left all for the service of their country".

In his speech Mr Ritchie referred to the "valiant deeds of service" of those who had returned, and remembered those who never would. He also acknowledged the "peace, loyalty, and freedom that they all enjoyed" which was recorded on the memorial.

Lady Jellicoe declared, "It is well that they should be recorded here so that passers by in generations to come may be able to do honor to the memory of these names" (Advertiser 28.5.1919. p7).

For nearly one hundred years, the Public Works Department Honour Board has been available as a public memorial and record of 497 South Australian government employees who offered their service during the First World War.

#### **Additional references**

<https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/multimedia/publications/memories-and-memorabilia/recognising-australias-war-heritage/war-memorials> Accessed 11.2.2019

Observer (Adelaide, SA) Saturday 31 May 1919, page 32

## LADY JELLCOE AND THE UNVEILING OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT HONOR BOARD



On Tuesday 27 May 1919, an honor board commemorating the World War One service of nearly five hundred South Australian government employees was unveiled by Lady Florence Gwendoline Jellicoe during her brief visit to Adelaide.

Lady Jellicoe was described by the Adelaide papers as ‘one of the most prominent patriotic workers in Great Britain’ for her work as secretary of the Centenary Fund of the British and Foreign Sailors’ Society and other societies, so the decision for her to unveil the Public Works Department Honor Board was appropriate.

The honor board was the largest of a number of boards for government departments to be commissioned and placed in buildings opposite Victoria Square, Adelaide, and was painted and possibly carved by local artisan Miss Blanche Francis.

### *“... most unusual”*

In February 1919, Lady Jellicoe’s decision to break with tradition and sail with her husband and leave their five children for an extended period cannot have been an easy one. Her youngest child George was still a baby when she accompanied her husband, Admiral Lord Jellicoe and his staff on a fifteen-month tour reporting on the naval defense capabilities of the British Empire, on board *H.M.S. New Zealand*.

### *“... beloved for devotion to war work”*

Lady Jellicoe was already known and respected in South Australia and her visit with her husband was reported to have been ‘eagerly awaited’ by the Adelaide public. Her significant war work was celebrated by South Australia’s Cheer Up Society, Navy League, Mission to Seamen and British and Foreign Sailors’ Society. Lord and Lady Jellicoe consequently arrived in Adelaide on Sunday 25 May 1919 to a hectic three-day schedule.

The Public Works Department honor board includes scenes of a bombed village, perhaps Villers-Bretonneux and an allied ship, painted in oils by Blanche Francis. The connections between Lady Jellicoe’s war work, her husband’s key role in the Battle of Jutland as commander of the Grand Fleet and the ship scene on the honor board were noted by the Commissioner of Public Works, the Honorable G. Ritchie who was to have unveiled the board. He therefore requested that Lady Jellicoe ‘should undertake the office’ instead.

### *“... I feel very honored by being asked”*

Lady Jellicoe consented, and in her speech several days later, she referred to the ‘gallantry of those whose names were inscribed’ and extended her sympathy and that of her husband to the families of the fifty-two men who had died. She also remarked on the beauty of the memorial and made special mention of the painting by Francis of the ship located in the top right-hand corner of the huge board.

The painting is variously described in the newspaper reports as the ‘North Sea and the Battle of Jutland’, a ‘man-o’-war’, a ‘British battleship in the North Sea’ and possibly, according to a smiling Lady Jellicoe, even ‘the Iron Duke’. At the event, Mr Owen Smyth, Superintendent of Public Buildings, also paid tribute to the men and thanked Lady Jellicoe, explaining that her name would, in due course, be inscribed on the board. A wooden plaque was subsequently positioned onto the board with the words, “This board was unveiled on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1919 by the Viscountess Jellicoe on the occasion of the visit of Admiral of the Fleet Viscount Jellicoe, GCE. OM, GCEO, RN, The Hon. Geo. Ritchie, M.P. being Commissioner of Public Works.”



The identity of the ship is still being investigated and it remains unclear whether Francis was commissioned to paint a specific ship or whether the image was her own artistic impression of a ship belonging to either the Australian Fleet or the Grand Fleet.

The unveiling of the Public Works Department Honor Board also enabled Lady Jellicoe to renew an old acquaintance in Mr A. McLellan, one of the city gardeners who had known Lady Jellicoe when he had been employed on the estate of her father, the late Sir Charles Cayzer.

According to the report in the *Daily Herald*, Lady Jellicoe ‘expressed pleasure at meeting Mr. McLellan, whom she remembered well, and she spent some time chatting with him about her old home and the people connected with it. As a souvenir of her visit to Adelaide Lady Jellicoe told Mr. McLellan she would forward to him a portrait of the Admiral and herself’.

Descendants of Mr McLellan recall stories about his horticultural skills and the important position he had held in Scotland prior to his migration to Adelaide, where he died in 1934.

#### ***“... an Adelaide artist”***



Blanche Francis was the fourth of the thirteen children of Jane Veronica Carroll, a talented craftswoman from the island of Guernsey, and Walter James Francis, a public servant and son of the first director of the Botanic Gardens in Adelaide, George William Francis.

Blanche was already principal soprano with the Adelaide Harmonie Society when she studied art under James Ashton in 1896. Like her cousin Alice Anson, and aunt Emily Anson, she belonged to the ‘Easel Club’, and later had her own art studio in Pirie Street, Adelaide, before studying woodcarving with Charlotte Benda. She subsequently ran woodcarving schools in Strathalbyn and Adelaide, and continued to teach and exhibit successfully until 1923 when a fire destroyed much of her work and designs. Few pieces of Francis’ artwork have survived, and her name is unknown to art historians.

#### ***“... a splendid honor roll”***

The honor boards Francis created in the aftermath of the First World War however, are fortunately well preserved and readily accessible. This has enabled her career as an artist and woodcarver to be re-discovered and further explored, contributing to our knowledge of early post-war commemorative practices in the state. For example, the Public Works Department Honor Board, in addition to its distinguished connection with Lady Jellicoe, is notable for its size and the fact that a woman was commissioned to paint the war scenes. At a time when the government was actively promoting public duty to employ returned soldiers, this is significant in the revelation that this board was just one of many created by Francis.

#### ***“... a beautiful shrine”***

The board also has considerable cultural significance for the Indigenous community in South Australia, as the names of twenty-six local Aboriginal men are also noted alongside the names of many other South Australian soldiers. Recent research has revealed that Francis painted her initials “B.F.” under the Royal Arms at the top of the board, and further investigations may confirm that Francis, whose studio was near the former government building, also carved the decorative scrolls.

It has not been possible to determine whether Lady Jellicoe was introduced to Blanche Francis during her brief visit to Adelaide, however, there is certainty that she would have met her younger sister, Alice, a pianist, and husband Harold Winterbottom, who attended the Mayoral Ball that evening.



H. E. Winterbottom was director of the Adelaide Chamber of Manufacturers, and as the somewhat controversial secretary of the 'South Australian Soldiers Fund', exchanged telegram messages with Lord Jellicoe about the fund-raising efforts of the group on behalf of sailors as well as soldiers, nurses and their dependents.

Ninety-nine years after being unveiled, the Department of Public Works Honor Board is finally revealing just some of its story. It has been looked upon and photographed more in the past year than at any other time.

Descendants of employees named on the board, relatives of Blanche Francis, cultural historians and heritage experts in South Australia are all discovering the object for the first time. Historical archaeologist [REDACTED] has argued that current investigations of the Public Works Honor Board are adding a fresh perspective and new layers of meaning to the local and national narrative of collective commemoration.

[REDACTED] considers that there is much more to be uncovered about the board, the work of Francis and the ways South Australians chose to remember and commemorate those who served during the First World War.

***"... a most auspicious occasion"***

For Lady Jellicoe, this unveiling may have been lost among the many hundreds of similar events she participated in during her fifteen-month journey aboard *H.M.S. New Zealand*. Perhaps her visit to Adelaide however, can also add new elements to her own story as the wife of Admiral Lord Jellicoe and her important role (in her husband's words) as a representative of the 'women of the British Empire'.

[REDACTED]  
Adelaide  
April 2018

**Sources**

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Head and shoulders portrait of Lady Florence Gwendoline Jellicoe, wife of the Governor-General of New Zealand, Lord Jellicoe. Photograph taken by Herman John Schmidt ca 1920. National Library of New Zealand. Reference Number: 1/1-001396-G <http://mp.natlib.govt.nz/detail/?id=13864&l=en> (accessed 5.4.2018)

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Image of Blanche Francis c 1900 provided by Paul and Christine Adams. Retouched by Suzi Leverington 2017.

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## **SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**

### **C.6 Origins and history**

#### **Years of construction**

The exact date on which construction of the Public Works Department Honour Board was commissioned has not yet been established from government records. However, according to the Register (5.11.1919 p.6), the Public Works Department was entrusted with the designing, collecting data for, and erecting honour roll boards” for seven government departments “Early in the war”.

Providing an exact date is also complicated by the possibility that each section and stage of the board (i.e. designing, name gathering, lettering, art work, manufacturing) may have been tendered and executed separately over a number of years. For example, despite its commission “Early in the war”, the first of the seven to be unveiled was the Education board, and it was not unveiled until early 1918 (Journal 22.1.1918 p1).

It is also thought that any records kept by Miss Blanche Francis, who painted the war related scenes and possibly much of the other artwork, are likely to have been destroyed in the fire in her store room in 1923. (Register 25.10.1923 p.10).

However, it can be confirmed that the Public Works Department board was completed by 27th May 1919, as the number of men acknowledged on the board mentioned in the newspaper reports tallies with the number on the board now (Register 28.5.1919 p9).

#### **Designer/architect**

The designer of the scenes and board was Mr. A.J. Lavender, who for many years was a draughtsman with the Architect-in-Chief’s section of the Public Works Department in Adelaide (Express and Telegraph 27.5.1919 p1; Observer 31.5.1919 p32). According to the newspaper at the time of his death in 1929, Mr Lavender was “born in England, had no relatives in Australia. He had been a widower for many years. He had practised his profession in many parts of the world, including America, Queensland, and Victoria”. Mr Lavender died in Port Elliott, having only just retired from the position aged 70 years. (News 9.9.1929 p10; Register News Pictorial 7.9.1929 p8)

#### **Artist**

Born in Adelaide in 1871, Blanche Francis was an established artist and woodcarver with a studio in Pirie Chambers in 1919. Francis belonged to a large artistic and musical family and was the granddaughter of George William Francis, who designed the planting of trees and shrubs for Victoria Square in 1854, and designed and directed the Adelaide Botanic Gardens for their first ten years. She was also a solo soprano with the Adelaide Harmonie Society in the early 1890s. Blanche Francis studied art under James Ashton, and with her aunt Emily Anson and cousin Alice Anson, was a member of the break away Adelaide Easel Club.

Francis was a member of the Adelaide Art Club, which held its meetings in her studio in Pirie St., and she exhibited paintings and woodcarving in the early days of the arts and crafts movement in South Australia. Her father Walter James Francis who died in 1909, had been a well-respected civil servant, and she had close connections with Adelaide’s business community and social elite, for whom she carved a number of high profile private commissions for honor boards and other items. She also painted much of the artwork on the honor boards that were unveiled in the corridor of the Crown Land’s Office (now the Adina apartment Hotel) in 1918.

It is not known why Francis was appointed to paint the honour boards. However, as her studio was in nearby Pirie St and her woodcarving, design and artistic skills were well recognized by the time the war had commenced, it is surmised that her proximity to the government offices and familiarity with honour board design may have contributed to her commission. She died in Adelaide in 1934.

### **Superintendent of Public Works**

Mr. C.E. Owen Smyth I.S.O, who was superintendent of Public Works during the war, may have shown a personal as well as professional interest in the creation of the board. Two of his sons enlisted and one was killed in action at Gallipoli. He was also involved in several patriotic causes, including the Navy League.

According to his obituary in 1925, his “artistic tastes were shown by the beautiful collection of pictures which he possessed” (News 9.9.1929 p10). This may explain in part, the choice of Adelaide artist Miss Blanche Francis to paint the two scenes in oils at the top of the board.

Mr Smyth retired in late 1919 after “more than 43 years” in the Civil Service and supplying Adelaide with “the most striking monuments to his industry and skill”. When he died the Register also reported that buildings he was responsible for included “a wing of the General Post Office; the Museum and Art Gallery on North terrace; two new wings at the Parkside Lunatic Asylum; a new wing, operating block, and isolation block at the Adelaide Hospital, the new School of Mines (designed from a rough sketch prepared by him), and several large city and suburban schools”. (Register 2.10.1925 p.10)

### **History of the nominated object:**

“Early in the war”, the South Australian Public Works Department was given the task of “designing, collecting data for, and erecting honour roll boards” for the large number of employees who enlisted from just seven government departments. The Public Works Department Honour Board was the sixth of these seven boards to be unveiled. The board lists 497 South Australian men from eight of the departments for which the Public Works Department was responsible (Register 5. 11.1919 p.6).

At the unveiling of the board on May 27<sup>th</sup> 1919, Mr. Smyth explained that in designing the board, “an attempt had been made to follow the English fashion, using the central portion as a roll of honor” (Express and Telegraph 27.5. 1919, p1). This intention was reiterated in a newspaper report some months later in which he was quoted as writing, “I have been very particular in keeping separate, under their special and proper headings, the names of men who gave their lives in the war under the head of ‘Roll of Honour’ (Register 5.11.1919 p.6).

The first known mention of the board in the press was the day before, when an announcement was made that it was to be unveiled by Lady Gwendoline Jellicoe (Register 26.5.1919, p6). All major daily and weekly newspapers in Adelaide and the June 1919 edition of the Public Service Review covered the occasion, which coincided with a three day visit to Adelaide by Lady Jellicoe with her husband, Admiral Sir John Jellicoe. Evidently Hon. George Ritchie who was Commissioner of Public Works, took the opportunity to invite Lady Jellicoe, a greatly respected patriotic worker during the war, to perform the ceremony in his place, and she accepted (Advertiser 28.5.1919 p.7). Their names were later inscribed on a separate plaque that was added to the board.

The board was moved from its original position in a northern corridor at some stage, possibly in 1988 or during the 1993-1997 renovations to the Torrens Building, but it is not known if it was stored before being moved to its present position in a southern corridor on the ground floor. (Express and Telegraph 27.5.1919, p1)

According to the Express and Telegraph (27.5.1919 p1) the Public Works Honour Board was intended to be “the finest of its kind in Adelaide”. However, despite its noteworthy size and design, the unusual inclusion of two oil paintings by a female non-veteran artist, its cultural significance to the South Australian Indigenous community and the grandeur of its unveiling by Lady Jellicoe, the board is remarkable for its lack of prominence in the context of South Australia’s WW1 memorial history.

### **Other sources:**

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**SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**  
**S.A. Express and Telegraph, Tuesday 27 May 1919, page 1**

PUBLIC SERVICE HEROES

"Faithful Unto Death"

A Splendid Honor Roll Unveiled by Lady Jellicoe

Lady Jellicoe graciously consented to unveil during her stay in Adelaide an honor board bearing the names of members of the public service in departments under the Commissioner of Public Works, and the ceremony was performed at 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning. There was a large gathering of heads of departments and officers, and Lady Jellicoe had a most cordial reception. She was attended by Paymaster Captain H. H. Share, C.B., RN. and Captain Brown, A.D.C., and was met on arrival at the the Government Buildings, Victoria-square east, by the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. G. Ritchie) and Mm. Ritchie, with him were Mrs Dewhirst (wife of the secretary to the Commissioner of Public Works), Miss Ritchie and Miss Gibson.

The honor board, which is aiming the finest of its kind in Adelaide, is on the wall of the northern corridor, and contains the names of 497 soldiers. A roll of honor, with the names of 52 soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice, is in the centre, and in gold letters there is inscribed:

He died the noblest death a man can die,  
Fighting for God, for truth, and loyalty,  
And such a death is immortality.  
*Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*

Above the names of the soldiers are two scenes, one of a British battleship in the North Sea, and the other of a war-shattered church in Northern France. These scenes were designed by Mr. A. J. Lavender, of the Public Buildings Department, and were done in oils by Miss Francis, an Adelaide artist.

Lady Jellicoe's attention was drawn to the battleship picture and some reference was made to Jutland. "Perhaps it is the Iron Duke," she said smilingly, and with a note of pride in her voice.

This incident, however, did not -occur until near the end of the proceedings, as when Lady Jellicoe arrived, the honor board was entirely draped with British flags. In asking her ladyship to unveil it, the Commissioner of Public Works said she had conferred a great honor upon the public service of South Australia in consenting to perform the ceremony. They realised that her visit was associated with that of Admiral Lord Jellicoe, the hero of Jutland—(cheers)—the preserver of the privileges which they, as British people and Australian citizens, had enjoyed.

Most of the men whom they were honoring that day were among the first in the field. They sprang to duty by no other pressure than that from within. They answered the call because they realised the Empire's need for their assistance, and they left all for the service of their country. Those men also in very large measure had been instruments in maintaining the privileges, which the British race prized so highly. The people of South Australia had hailed the return of those who had come back to them, and would welcome those who were on their way "home."

It was their duty as a people to give them the best in return that they were able to give. They thought in deep regret of those gallant men who would never return, but were at least able to say of them, "Thank God, they have not died in vain." (Hear, hear.)

The best epitaph that could be written upon those small white crosses to be found on Gallipoli, in France, and Egypt, and on the other fighting fronts, would be in the words of the Great Teacher, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

This memorial table was in honor of the men who had fallen, and was also a record of those who had performed valiant service for their country. (Cheers.)

'Lady Jellicoe, before removing the draping from the board, said: Mr. Ritchie, officers, and men of the Public Works Office, I feel very honored by being asked to unveil this shrine to-day—and I do so with the greatest pleasure—to the memory of the brave men whose names are here inscribed. I know that these names are already engraved on another shrine—the shrine of your hearts—but it is well that they should be recorded here, so that passers-by in generations to come may be able to do honor to the memory of these names. May I tender to the relatives of those that mourn their dear ones the heartfelt sympathy of the Admiral of the Fleet and myself. They have earned that most wonderful and splendid epitaph, "Faithful unto death." (Loud cheers.)

Lady Jellicoe then unveiled the board, and she appeared to be greatly impressed by its proportions and its handsome character.

A hearty vote of thanks to Lady Jellicoe was carried by acclamation on the motion of the Superintendent of Public Buildings (Mr. Owen Smyth, I.S.O.), who said that in the preparation of the board an attempt had been made to follow the English fashion, using the central portion as a roll of honor. The names there were of those who died to keep their country from being put under the heel of the worst, most treacherous, and bloodthirsty military despotism the world had ever seen or imagined. In inviting Lady Jellicoe to perform the ceremony, they had desired to do her honor, as being the helpmate and alter ego of the gallant Admiral of the Fleet her name would be placed on the board as a record of a most auspicious occasion. (Cheers.)

Luncheon on New Zealand.

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Galway) the Premier and Mrs. Peake, and the Hon. E. A. Anstey (Minister for Repatriation), and Mrs. Anstey, lunched with Admiral Jellicoe on board the New Zealand on Tuesday.

**SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board  
S.A. Observer. Saturday 31 May 1919, page 32**

**AN HONOUR BOARD UNVEILED BY LADY JELlicoe.**

"There's none of these . . . but in dying, has made us rarer gifts than gold."

These words, prophetic of the fate of the gallant man who wrote them, were the keynote of Tuesday morning's proceedings at the Government Offices, Victoria Square east. The occasion was the unveiling of an honour board bearing an honour roll of the employees connected with the Public Works Department. The Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. G. Ritchie), who was to have performed the unveiling ceremony, took advantage of Lady Jellicoe's visit to Adelaide to request that she should undertake the office.

Lady Jellicoe readily accepted the invitation. She arrived at the north corridor of the Public Works Office at 11 o'clock, attended by Capt. Share, and Capt. Brown, A.D.C. and was welcomed by the Commissioner of Public Works, the Superintendent of Public Buildings (Mr. C. E. Owen Smyth, I.S.O.), and the heads of all departments. The corridors were crowded with an enthusiastic throng, who cheered Lady Jellicoe as she arrived.

**The Great Honour.**

The ceremony took place in front of the massive honour board, which was veiled by the Union Jack. Mr Ritchie, in welcoming their guest, said it had been arranged that he should unveil the names, but he wished Lady Jellicoe to do so, and she had graciously consented. The honour she conferred was added to when they realized that the visit was associated with Admiral Lord Jellicoe, the hero of Jutland. (Applause)

Most of the names they were that day honouring represented men who went away into the first of the fight. No pressure sent them, save that from within, which made them realize the Empire's need on an emergency. Realizing what these men had done, they gladly hailed the returned man and those who were on the way home. It was their duty to give them of the best. (Applause.) When they pointed to the memorial of their heroes, they laid bare their own hearts, had said that these were the things to live for, and also be prepared to die for. Valiant deeds of service had been done by these men and were recorded on that memorial, but the greatest were expressed in the peace, loyalty, and freedom that they all enjoyed. These had been maintained by the sacrifice of brave men who would not return, but they thanked God that they had not died in vain. The best epitaph upon those small white crosses in Gallipoli and France would be "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (Applause)

**Faithful Unto Death**

Mr. Ritchie asked Lady Jellicoe to unveil the roll, and three cheers were given as she prepared to accede to the request. She pulled the cord, and the flags rolled away revealing a beautiful memorial. Lady Jellicoe said "I feel much honoured by being asked to unveil this shrine this morning, and I do so with the greatest of pleasure to the memory of those brave men of the Public Works Office.

I know that these names are already engraved on other shrines—the shrines of your hearts—but it is well that they should also be recorded; here, so that the passers by, in generations to come may be able to do honour to those who have fought so bravely. May I tender to all the relatives of those men who have fallen the heartiest sympathy of the Admiral of the Fleet and myself? They have earned that most perfect of all epitaphs, 'Faithful unto death!' (Applause)

### A Signal Tribute

Mr. Owen Smyth, as the senior officer of the department, thanked Lady Jellicoe for her inspiring words. He drew attention to the work and design of the memorial, which had all been performed by officials in that department. This record was the last of a number to be unveiled, and was the largest of them all. The speaker paid a tribute to the gallantry of those whose names were inscribed.

He also referred to the fine service of Admiral Jellicoe, and said they were all glad to have the opportunity to do honour to his wife who had also honoured them. Lady Jellicoe's name would be placed on the board, and would be the only lady's name to be thus inscribed, in the Government service. (Applause)

### A Beautiful Shrine

Cheers were given for Lady Jellicoe, the Admiral, and the King and a close inspection was then made of the handsome walnut honour board. It contained 497 names of whom 52 have made the supreme sacrifice.

The branches included are: Public Works Office, Engineer-in-Chief Department, Hydraulic Engineer's Department, Works and Buildings department, Harbours Board, Supply and Tender Board, Department of Aborigines, and Minister of Mines. The inscription surmounted by the Royal Coat of Arms, sets forth:

He died the noblest death a man can die, fighting for God, for truth, for loyalty,  
And such a death is immortality.  
*Dulce et decorum est pro patria mori*

At the top of the board are two views, in oils (the work of Miss Francis, a local artist), of the North Sea and the Battle of Jutland, and of a ruined town in the north of France. Mr. A. J. Lavender designed the board. Lady Jellicoe looked with natural interest of the Jutland picture, and suggested that the depicted iron clad was the Iron Duke on account of its four funnels!



**SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**  
**S.A Advertiser 28.5.1919 p.7**

PUBLIC SERVICE HEROES  
FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH.  
SPLENDID HONOR ROLL  
UNVEILED BY LADY JELlicOE.

Lady Jellicoe graciously consented to unveil during her stay in Adelaide an honor hoard bearing the names of members in the public service in departments under the Commissioner of Public Works, and the ceremony was performed at 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning. There was a large gathering of heads of departments and officers and Lady Jellicoe had a most cordial reception. She was attended by Paymaster Captain H.H. Share, C.B., RN., and Captain Brown, A.D.C., and was met on arrival at the New Government Buildings, Victoria Square East by Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. G. Ritchie) and Mrs. Ritchie, with whom were Mrs. C. H. Dewhurst (wife of the secretary to the Commissioner of Public Works), Miss Ritchie, and Miss Gibson.

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**SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**  
**D. Heritage Significance**

**7. Statement of Heritage Significance of the Heritage Place associated with the Object**

*The Torrens Building is one of the State's most notable surviving purpose-built Government office buildings. Completed in 1881, it was the largest public building of its period and one of the largest buildings in the city. Other government office buildings of comparable significance that are State Heritage Places are the former Treasury Offices in King William Street and the Adelaide Railway Station. It is the first building erected on the site and was used continuously for Government Offices for over a century. Notable occupants have included the Registrar-General and the Public Works Department and its successors. The building is also of architectural significance as the best remaining example of Renaissance Palladian style architecture in Adelaide, that quality reflecting the significant role of government agencies in the development of the State. If assessed under the current Heritage Act the Torrens Building would meet criteria 'e' and 'g'.*

*From: S.A. State Heritage Register. Accessed 1.9.2019  
[http://maps.sa.gov.au/heritagesearch/HeritageItem.aspx?p\\_heritageno=1624](http://maps.sa.gov.au/heritagesearch/HeritageItem.aspx?p_heritageno=1624)*

**8. Intrinsic connection of the Public Works Department Honor Board with the former ‘new government offices’, now known as the Torrens Building**

May 27<sup>th</sup> 2019 marked the centenary of the unveiling of the Public Works Department WW1 Honor Board in the ‘new government offices’, now known as the Torrens Building, in Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga, Adelaide. The board has therefore had a strong, unbroken connection with one of South Australia’s most iconic heritage listed buildings for just over 100 years.

It is also important to note that there is no known equivalent board for Public Works’ employees who gave service during the Second World War. Therefore, the board is possibly the only public memorial symbolising the contribution made by the Public Works Department to the post colonial economic, architectural, socio-cultural and political history of South Australia.

The Torrens Building was placed on the South Australian Heritage SA Heritage Places Database on 28 May 1981, one hundred years after the building was completed. The building is notable for its size at the time of its completion, its long continuous use by the state’s public servants and, like the nearby former Treasury Building, its architectural significance as a government building. Between them, the Torrens Building and heritage listed former Treasury Building house four of a group of seven government WW1 honour boards that were commissioned together early in the war, and bear testimony to the service of employees of forty-six government departments.

For nearly a century, these ‘new’ government offices provided much needed additional space for the administrative heart of South Australia’s civil service. Alexander Parsons has written that South Australia’s Minister of Public Works, the Public Works Department, the Registrar General, the Architect-in-Chief and his department, the Engineer-in-Chief and Hydraulic Engineering Staff, and the Water Works Department all had offices in the building at one time.

However, according to Marianne Liebelt (1979), even before war was declared in 1914, South Australia was reeling from drought, changes in government and industrial unrest from retrenchments and working conditions, and the additional complexities of administering so many departments and major projects caused significant inter-departmental tensions. Some of some of the departments, such as the Department of Aborigines, Engineer-in-Chief’s Department and Hydraulic Engineers Department overlapped, as all three departments contracted local men (often part-time) for large scale public works in the same geographical area.

When war was declared in 1914, these existing problems were intensified by the large numbers of Public Works employees who left to enlist. Especially affected by the war were the Engineer’s and Hydraulic Engineer’s departments, as evidenced by the fact that five of the ten name panels on the board are required to list the names of men employed by these two sections alone.

Major policy changes and decisions by the administrators who worked in this building also deeply affected the Indigenous people of South Australia, their culture and the management of their communities at this time.

The honour board and the Torrens Building are therefore both reminders of the state's constant struggle to deliver vital and culturally complex services, and much of this history is reflected in the layout and design of the board and the numbers of employees from each section who enlisted.

It is also notable that it was from these government offices on 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914, that the South Australian Commissioner of Public Works, Sir Richard Butler M.P, read a message from the Governor announcing that Great Britain had declared war on Germany. Mr. C. E. Owen Smyth, Superintendent of the Public Works Department was present, as were "thousands of Civil Servants and others". The Advertiser newspaper also reported that, "Not since the South African war has such a scene occurred in Adelaide as that witnessed in front of the Government Offices in Victoria-square on Wednesday afternoon" and that "the gathering was graced by the presence of a number of leading citizens.

The Commissioner of Public Works (Sir Richard Butler) took charge of the proceedings, and among those present were their Honors Mr. Justice Gordon, Mr. Justice Murray, and Mr. Justice Buchanan, and Mr. C. E. Owen Smyth, Mr. L. H. Sholl, Hon. F. S. Wallis, Mr. Graham Stewart, Mr. A. B. Moncrieff, Mr. C. J. Dashwood, Mr. W. J. Denny, M.P., Mr. A. N. Day, and Captain Hopwood, A.D.C. to his Excellency the Governor".

Nearly five years later, in May 1919 when Lady Jellicoe arrived in the building to unveil the honour board, the Superintendent of Public Buildings Mr. C. E. Owen Smyth was again present, and the Observer newspaper reported that she was welcomed by the Commissioner of Public Works and the heads of all departments, and that the corridors were "crowded with an enthusiastic throng".

In the late 1960s, according to Alexander Parsons, the government offices were proving once again to be inadequate and "occupants were leaving for more expansive office spaces", and some years after the long standing Engineering and Water Supply Department left the building, it underwent a substantial renovation. Since then has been used for a number of different non-government purposes. It is possibly during this period of transition in the late 1980s, that the honor board was relocated from the northern corridor to its present location in the narrow main southern corridor of the ground floor.

So, apart from a possible period in storage, the Public Works Department Honor Board has symbolised the commitment and sacrifice made by 497 Indigenous and non-Indigenous employees of the South Australian Public Works Department during the First World War. As a public memorial, albeit a little recognised one, it has been intrinsically linked with the Torrens Building for one hundred of the building's 138 year lifetime.

## Sources

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2. <http://adelaide.sa.gov.au/places/torrens-building-0> Uploaded 7 July 2017 Accessed 31.7.2018
3. Advertiser 6.8.1914 pp.10-11
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5. Advertiser 28.5.1919 p.7
6. Liebelt, M. D. 1979. "There shall be .....a way"- *A history of the Engineering and Water Supply Department of South Australia*. Master of Arts Thesis. School of History. University of Adelaide. pp273- 277 Accessed 16.2.2019
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8. Kartinyeri, Doreen. 1996. Ngarrindjeri Anzacs. Aboriginal Family History Project South Australian Museum and Raukkan Council.

## **Torrens Building - Statement of Heritage Significance**

From [http://maps.sa.gov.au/heritagesearch/HeritageItem.aspx?p\\_heritageno=1624](http://maps.sa.gov.au/heritagesearch/HeritageItem.aspx?p_heritageno=1624)

Accessed 6.9.2019

### Heritage Place Details

#### **LOCATION**

Map	Show Map
Address	202-220 Victoria Square ADELAIDE
Locality	ADELAIDE
Accuracy	H - high level confidence
Development Plan	ADELAIDE Council
Polygon Type	B - Building footprint

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Details (Known As) Torrens Building

Registered Name Torrens Building

Significance The Torrens Building is one of the State's most notable surviving purpose-built Government office buildings. Completed in 1881, it was the largest public building of its period and one of the largest buildings in the city. Other government office buildings of comparable significance that are State Heritage Places are the former Treasury Offices in King William Street and the Adelaide Railway Station. It is the first building erected on the site and was used continuously for Government Offices for over a century. Notable occupants have included the Registrar-General and the Public Works Department and its successors. The building is also of architectural significance as the best remaining example of Renaissance Palladian style architecture in Adelaide, that quality reflecting the significant role of government agencies in the development of the State. If assessed under the current Heritage Act the Torrens Building would meet criteria 'e' and 'g'.

Subject Index Government - Office Building

Class State

#### **STATUS**

Status Code REG - Confirmed as a State Heritage Place in the SA Heritage Register

Status Date 28-MAY-1981

#### **REFERENCE**

LGA Adelaide

State Heritage ID 10895

Heritage Number 1624

#### **SECTION 16 INFORMATION**

Section 16

#### **PLAN PARCEL & TITLE**

As listed in the SA Heritage Register

Plan Parcel & Title Information CT 5896/686 D27841 A5

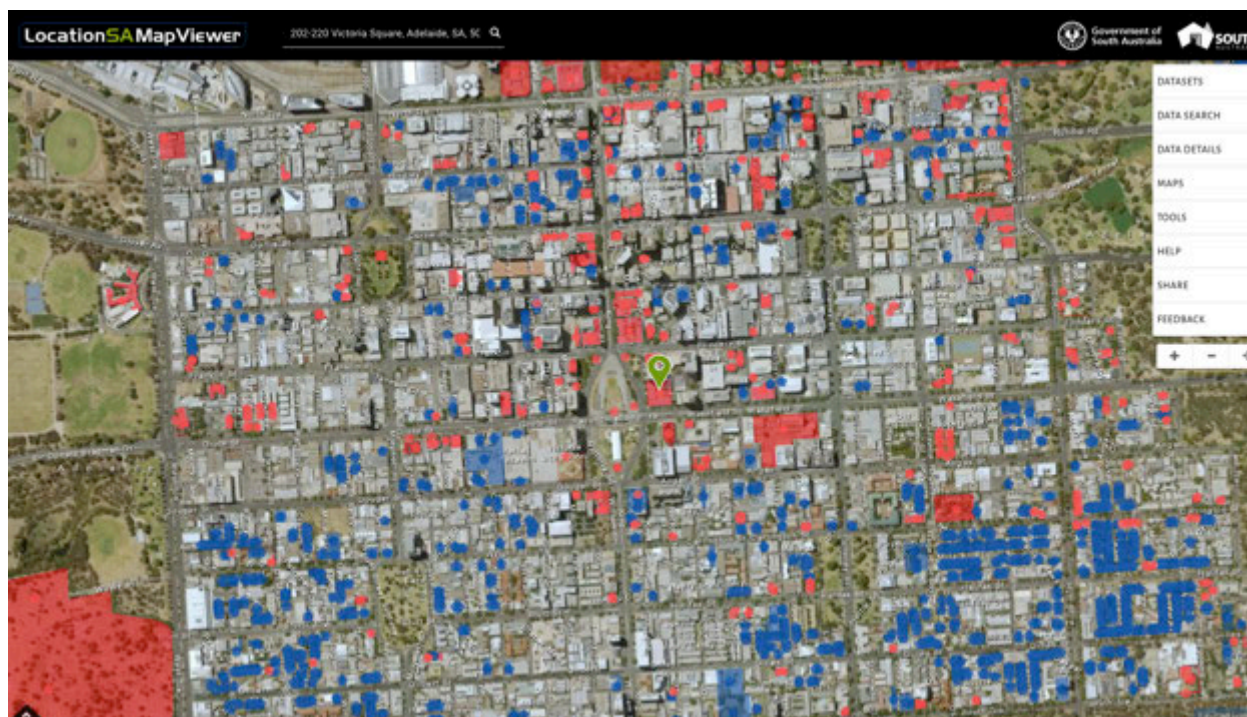
## SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board

### E. 10 Additional information

#### Map showing location of the Torrens Building

The Torrens Building can be identified by a green symbol to the southeast of Victoria Square/Tarndanyangga. The Public Works Department Honor Board is on the ground floor of the building and positioned on the wall of the southern corridor leading from the front entrance.

Location SA Map Viewer – 202-220 Victoria Square Adelaide 5000.  
<http://location.sa.gov.au/viewer/?map=hybrid&x=138.60117848&y=-34.92811445&z=18&uids=95,102,180> (Accessed 10.2.2019)



### **SA Heritage Register Nomination for the Public Works Department Honor Board**

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.

I, [REDACTED] nominate the Public Works Department Honor Board, Torrens Building, Tarrandanyangga/Victoria Square, Adelaide to be heritage listed.

The information I have provided is correct to my knowledge.

Signature: [REDACTED]

Date:

9.9.2019



CONYBEERE, H.  
DAVIES, G. F.  
PACKHAM, F.  
SOUTH, W. J. S.

ALDEN, A.  
ALLIKAS, A.  
ANDERSON, P.T.  
ARNOLD, W.E.  
ATKINSON, L.  
ANGWIN, H.T.M.

ATTINELLI, L.  
BACH, J. A.  
BACHLER, A.  
BACHLER, G. J.  
BATES, M.  
BARRY, J. J.  
BARTON, J. E.  
BERNARDINI, J. A.  
BEVERLEY, A.  
BLACKETTER, L.  
BLACKSELL, W. R.  
BLACKWELL, J. A.  
BOHLEN, J. E.  
BOHSTRO, R. G.  
HOWDITCH, J.  
DOYLAN, R.  
BRADHAM, A. S.  
BRIDGES, J. E.  
BRITTEN, J. A.  
BROWN, D. H.  
BROWN, T.  
BUCHFORD, A. E.  
BUTLER, J. E.  
BYRON, H. B.  
BURNETT, D.  
CAHILL, M.  
CAMFIELD, J.  
CARP, J. R.  
CLARK, W.  
CLOY, F.  
COTTER, E.  
COTTER, H.  
COTTER, J. E.  
CHRISTENSEN, R.  
CRANE, A. M.  
LEFRANCCHIEN, R.  
DINNO, T. J.  
DINNO, T. J.  
DONAGHY, J.  
DUMAS, E. H.  
DYKE, L.  
EAST, R. H.  
ELLIS, T. G.  
EVANS, R. J.  
FARGHER, J. E.  
FOX, W.  
GILBERT, J.  
GLASSBURN, J.  
GLASSBURN, W.  
GILDS, S.  
GILLET, T. J.  
GOSKE, E.  
GRANVILLE, J.  
GREEN, J.  
GREEN, A.

GREENHAM, A.B.  
HAIRE, T.  
HALL, B.M.  
HARRIS, C.E.  
HAMMOND, H.J.  
HANNEN, J.A.  
HEYLEN, P.S.  
HICKEY, J.P.  
HILL, C.D.  
HILL, C.D.  
HOLDER, J.  
HOLLAMBY, C.R.  
HOWELL, L.  
HUGHES, J.  
HUTCHISON, M.  
INGLIS, R.S.  
JAMES, W.  
JOHNSON, C.B.  
JOHNSON, C.B.  
JOHNSON, J.E.  
KARPANY, G.A.  
KEELEY, J.  
KEENAN, W.  
KIRK, J.  
LAMONT, L.  
LEPELEY, A.  
LESTER, L.  
LEWIS, W.  
LLOYD, O.O.  
LYONS, M.  
MCINTYRE, R.  
MAHONEY, J.D.  
MARGITHAL, A.  
MARTIN, J.  
MC DONALD, A.  
M'LEAN, W.  
MCMAHON, J.  
MC PHER, C.  
MC PHER, C.  
MILLS, W.  
MOODY, F.R.  
MULLARD, G.H.  
NEAL, J.  
NEWMAN, W.  
NEWMAN, W.  
NORRIS, C.H.  
O'CALLAGHAN, D.  
OWEN, H.C.  
PAGE, B.  
PARSON, E.  
PERRINS, F.  
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PHILLIPS, T.W.  
PILCHER, J.T.  
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PORTER, W.  
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PRICE, R.  
PRIEST, J.H.  
RANDALL, G.E.  
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RICKETTS, R.H.  
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ROTHENBERG, S.  
SAPIN, F.  
SCHEIDT, G.S.  
SCHULZ, O.  
SCOTT, H.M.  
SHEEHAN, J.

SHOET, A.C.  
SLATER, A.  
SMELTS, L.  
SMITH, D.  
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SMITH, G.V.  
SMITH, H.R.  
SMITH, JAS.E.  
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SMITH, J.W.  
SOMERVILLE, R.  
STUART, F.M.  
SULLY, R.S.  
TAYLOR, A.  
THOMAS, E.  
THOMAS, W.L.  
THORNTON, M.  
THORPE, L.  
THRELOWN, R.S.  
TUCKER, F.F.  
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VARCOE, K.A.  
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WRIGHT, G.R.  
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EDWARDS, A.S.  
JOYNER, L.W.  
MCINTOSH, R.  
MCNAMARA, G.J.

ADERNETHY, E. J.  
ADAMS, L. R.  
ADDISON, H.  
ALLGOOD, H.  
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BARBER, N.  
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BRIGHT, R.A.  
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BRIN, W. WHITE  
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CLARK, W.H.  
CLIFTON, J.E.  
COLLIVER, E.J.  
COLEMAN, J.  
COWARD, E.  
CRISPE, H.E.  
DALEY, W.  
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DANIELS, P.W.  
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DAY, J.  
DEWHIRST, E.  
DOBSON, W.J.  
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DUNN, R.  
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 KIDD, G.J.  
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 MURAY, J.  
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AYLIFF, S. B.  
BARKER, C.  
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O'HEA, M.  
PEPALL, W. A.  
RAINEY, H. G.  
REDWAY, G. J.  
SANDERS, A. C.  
SEGNETZ, R. W.  
SLATTERY, J.  
SMITH, F. H.  
SMITH, F. P.  
THOMAS, H.  
WATKINS, S. G.  
WOODALL, J. S.  
SCHOFIELD, W. J.

ADAMS, D. E. M.  
ANDERSON, W. J.  
BAKER, A.  
BARTHOLOMEWS,  
BOWIE, A. D.  
BROOKS, W. R. C.  
CARR, R. V.  
CARROLL, J.  
CLEMENTS, W. G.  
CHESTERMAN,  
CARR, G. E.  
CONNELL, J. G.  
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DUFFY, A.  
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LUCKETT, D.  
LYALL, J.H.  
MEYER, E.C.  
MILLER, J.P., C.N.  
MOSLEY, J.M.  
MCKINNON, K.J.  
NEILSON, A.  
PICKARD, N.  
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PLAYFORD, P.  
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PARASKEAS, R.V.  
PENQUILLY, A.-G.

ANDERSON, W.L.  
ANTON, M.C.  
ANNEX, R.R.  
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BROUSSET, E.  
BOWDEN, T.A.  
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DEW, H.A.  
GRAMHAM, A.  
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HOARE, S.I.  
HOSKIN, W.A.  
HUBBARD, J.  
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MUNIEL, J.B.  
MURPHY, G.E.  
MUTCH, L.L.  
NOVICK, A.E.  
PERKINS, S.A.  
SMITH, A.E.  
STERN, S.A.B.  
TAMM, S.  
THOMAS, S.E.  
TILBROOK, C.C.  
THEMATH, L.C.  
TURNER, W.T.  
VANDER, J.  
WALKER, B.B.  
WEATHERILL, C.C.  
WHEELER, P.A.  
WINTON, P.W.

ADDITIONALS  
CAMERON, A.  
CARTER, R.W.  
GOLLAN, W.  
KARPANY, G.  
KARPANY, G.  
LINDSAY, L.  
MACR, M.  
MCLEAN, M.T.  
MILLER, H.  
MUCKRAY, H.  
RANKINE, H.  
READ, J.E.  
RIGNEY, C.S.  
RIGNEY, G.W.  
RIGNEY, R.G.  
SUMNER, L.  
SUMNER, W.  
TRIPP, H.  
VARCOE, A.F.  
WALKER, A.  
WEETRA, A.  
WEETRA, H.J.  
WILSON, C.  
WILSON, G.A.  
WILSON, L.  
WILSON, P.M.







DUNN, R.  
DUNN, E. J.  
EDGWOOD, J.  
EVANS, W.  
FERGUSON, H.  
FOGDEN, E. B.  
FRASER, W.  
GREAVES, T.  
GREEN, H. J.  
GROVE, R. H.  
HARDING, A. E.  
HARGRAVES, E.  
HARRIS, C. M.  
HARRISON, P.  
HARVEY, M. J.  
HASKELL, J.  
HEATH, C. R.  
HEFRON, E.  
HERMAN, P.

**COMMISSIONER OF  
PUBLIC WORKS**

Names of those  
who have  
**ENLISTED for SERVICE**  
1914 in the 1919.  
**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCES**

SMYLIE, A. M<sup>c</sup>I.  
SPAIN, T.  
SPENCE, A. E.  
TALBOT, T. W.  
TOLLEY, C. S.  
TUCK, W. R.  
TUNBRIDGE, P. F.  
WAHLSTEDT, C.  
WAHLSTEDT, T.  
WARLEY, T.  
WATSON, F.  
WATSON, C. W.  
WATSON, J. H.  
WATSON, J. A.  
WATSON, R. D. L.  
WILKINS, E. L.  
WILLSMORE, M. C.  
WILTON, R. G.  
WYNES, W. C. J.

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AYLIFFE, S. H.  
BARKER, C.  
CARTER, A. A.  
COTTON, W. H.  
DONOVAN, J.  
GANNONI, S.  
GRAHAM, S. H.  
HENDERSON, G. F.  
JOHNSTON, W. R.  
JONES, A. E.  
LEWIS, C. B.  
MACKENZIE, C. W. T. K.  
MARTIN, T. E.  
MEGGS, R. J.  
MORRIS, A. E.



R



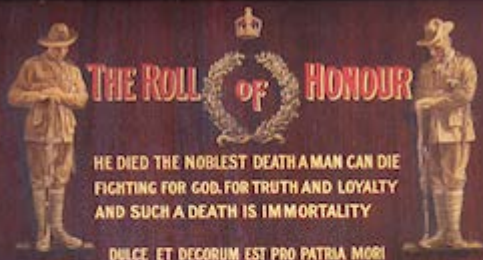


# THE ROLL OF HONOUR



HE DIED THE NOBLEST DEATH A MAN CAN DIE  
FIGHTING FOR GOD, FOR TRUTH AND LOYALTY  
AND SUCH A DEATH IS IMMORTALITY

DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI



ADAMS, L. R.  
BLASKETT, W. G.  
HEATH, R. A.  
KERR, S. H.  
LEWIS, C. B.  
McNEIL, J. R.  
MATTHEWS, W. F.  
PFUHL, W. T.  
MEGGS, R. J.  
DUFFY, A.  
SMITH, F. H.  
ADAMS, D. B. M.  
CHAMBERS, L. J.  
JONES, S. R.  
BARRY, J. J.  
DAY, A. S.  
BOWIE, A. D.  
GEORGE, L.  
LYALL, L. H.  
ARTHUR, H. R.  
BARBER, A. A.  
BLACKSELL, W. R.  
DAWE, B.  
DOBSON, W. L.  
ELLIS, T. G.  
MEDLAND, E. H.

RAINEY, H. G.  
RIGNEY, C. S.  
TOWNSEND, A. J.  
VARCOE, A. F.  
WALKER, A.  
WATHERSTONE, A. J.  
WATSON, R. D. L.  
PARASIERS, R. V.  
WYLD, R.  
DAVIES, G. F.  
LAWSON, P. H.  
SLATTERY, J.  
DEWHIRST, E. B.  
McDONNELL, P.  
COWIN, N. C.  
NURSE, C. H.  
DONOVAN, W. C.  
WRIGHT, E.  
McARTHUR, C. N.  
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LYNCH, P.  
MOLONEY, J.  
GROVE, R. H.  
WILLSMORE, M. C.  
BATTYE, E. J.  
RIGNEY, R. G.

# DEPARTMENT OF ABORIGINES

CAMERON, A.  
CARTER, R. W.  
GOLLAN, W.  
KARPANY, G.  
KARPANY, W.  
LINDSAY, L.  
MACK, M.  
MCLEAN, M. T.  
MILLERA, H.  
MUCKRAY, H.  
RANKINE, A.  
READ, H. E.  
RIGNEY, C. S.  
RIGNEY, G. W.  
RIGNEY, R. G.  
SUMNER, E. L.  
SUMNER, W.  
TRIPP, H.  
VARCOE, A. F.  
WALKER, A.  
WEETRA, A.  
WEETRA, H. J.  
WILSON, C.  
WILSON, G. A.  
WILSON, L.  
WILSON, P. M.





OF