

SA Heritage Register

Nomination form



Government of South Australia

Department for Environment
and Water

NOMINATION FORM

To help your nomination be successful, please fill out this form with as much information as possible.

Feel free to expand the answer fields as much as you require or append information to the form.

It is important that you attach images and a map of what you are nominating by email or by fax.

Please note that places which have been nominated during past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council unless you can provide significant new information not provided through the previous nomination and assessment.

For assistance with this form you may contact:

Your local historical society or heritage adviser may be of assistance OR you may telephone an assessment officer in Heritage South Australia on (08) 8124 4960.

A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of Place / Object:	Axel Stenross Boatshed & living quarters
Any other or former name(s):	McFarlane's Boatshed (original); Gulf Docking Slip (Stenross trading name); Axel Stenross Maritime Museum Inc. (current).
Is the place already on another heritage list?	None identified

2. Location					
Street Address:	97 Lincoln Highway				
	Port Lincoln 5606				
Local Council Name:	City of Port Lincoln				
Land Description: (if known)	Title: CR5768/501	Volume:	Folio:	Parcel Type:	Parcel No: H510600
	Plan Type:	Plan No:	Section: POR 1323	Hundred: PORT LINCOLN	
GPS Location/s: (If known)	Longitude / Easting / X 135°51'E			Latitude / Northing / Y (Datum = GDA2020) 34°42'S	

3. Ownership	
Name of Owner(s):	
Contact person: (if different from owner explain relationship)	
Postal Address:	
Phone Number:	
Ownership History:	

4. Nominator (your details)	
Your Name/s:	
Organisation/Position:	
Daytime Phone:	
Postal Address:	
Email Address:	

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B. Description

5. Description of nominated place or object	
Description of the nominated place or object and its current condition:	<p>The original boat building shed was constructed in 1930 next to the landing site of Port Lincoln's first European settlers.</p> <p>Of timber-frame construction the single storey, gable and skillion-roofed building is clad with corrugated iron. It is partly lined internally with flattened plywood tea-chests many of which bear their original labels and trademarks.</p> <p>The building has been preserved since 1980 in as near as possible its original condition complete with boat building and blacksmith tools, workshop equipment, boat-building materials, furnishings, clothing items and domestic utensils.</p> <p>It has been maintained and operated by volunteers as a community-based maritime museum since 1983 and is an iconic tourism destination in Port Lincoln.</p>
Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place or object? Can you provide dates for these changes?	<p>1940—relocated camp shack positioned next to the original building; kitchen and materials store added (later converted to living quarters); skillion roof workshop extension, bathroom and laundry added.</p> <p>1942—additional bedroom, office and blacksmith shop added.</p> <p>1956—original roof trusses modified and roof raised to enable the construction of larger vessels.</p> <p>1984—storeroom extension to original office.</p> <p>1994—display space extension added to the end of the blacksmith shop.</p> <p>2000—separate covered boat display space added adjacent the slipway.</p> <p>2006—separate main display hall of the Museum added.</p> <p>Pavers and boards have been laid over parts of the original earthen floor in the boatshed and blacksmith shop (access safety for Museum volunteers and patrons).</p>
Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground? Should an archaeological investigation be considered?	<p>Artefact remains of the original boatshed jetty are known to have been covered by a carpark. An archaeological investigation is probably not warranted.</p>
Date you inspected the place or object:	On-going through Museum operations
Have you had any contact with the Owner?	On-going through Museum operations
Current use of the place or object:	Complete historical element within the totality of the museum
Original or former use(s):	Boat building and repair; slipway; living quarters (original) Maritime museum in original configuration 1983–2006
Are there any current or long term threats to the nominated place or object?	General age-related structural deterioration. Potential sea level rise in the longer-term
Name of Builder:	Jack and Tyzak McFarlane of the Port Adelaide boat building family.
Any other information:	

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C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	Start: 1930 Finish: 1930
Name of Designer / Architect:	Builder
History of the nominated place or object:	<p>The original boat building shed was built and used by Jack McFarlane until it was acquired in 1939 by local publican Mr. R. Rosewarne in settlement of a long-standing debt. It was on-sold to Finnish shipwright Axel Stenross who with his sailmaker crewmate Frank Laakso had paid off from the grain trade windjammer <i>sv Olivebank</i> in 1927 whilst the ship was in Port Lincoln.</p> <p>After coming ashore Axel and Frank initially worked on construction of the Port Lincoln railway station. In 1928 they purchased the Gulf Docking Slip a boatbuilding business established in 1919 at a site close to the present-day Port Lincoln CBD. When the lease at that site was not renewed they purchased the nominated boatshed in 1940 at a cost of £100 payable in quarterly instalments.</p> <p>Over the ensuing year Axel and Frank rafted their equipment, tools and slipway shack behind Axel's motor launch <i>Rio Rita</i> to this new yard approximately one mile north on the shore of Boston Bay. The slipway cradle was relocated by lashing it under <i>Rio Rita</i>, and slowly motored to the new site where it was lowered into position as the tide fell. The shack that dates from when they came ashore from the <i>Olivebank</i> was positioned next to the workshop where it still stands. The slipway continues in commercial use by today's museum.</p> <p>They progressively expanded the premises with the addition of a materials store, an office and the blacksmiths shop. The materials store was later converted to a living room and lined with tea-chests.</p> <p>Axel married local woman Norma Hassell in 1958. He, Norma and Frank lived here together until Frank then Norma died in 1975. Axel went on working until he died on 25 February 1980 aged 84.</p> <p>The total number of boats built by Axel and Frank at the nominated site cannot be confirmed from available records— anecdotal advice suggests in the order of 44 boats 20–45 feet in length, and more than 250 smaller craft. The number of boats built by McFarlane before them is unknown.</p> <p>The Museum collection includes restored examples of each builders' boats.</p>
Historical sources used to support your nomination: Please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate.	

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D. Heritage Significance

7. Statement of State Significance - Why is the place or object important to South Australia?

The original building is of historical significance as the only remaining example of a wooden boat building shed of the type that existed in Port Adelaide and elsewhere in South Australia through the mid-1900s. It is unique in that it is complete with the boat building tools, equipment and materials, and many of the domestic items that it contained when the business closed in 1980. There are few such original sheds left in Australia and as far as is known, none that have been kept as well preserved in its original condition.

It also has a strong historic association with the Finnish migration and settlement in Port Lincoln from the grain-trade windjammers that are an iconic part of South Australia's history.

It was described in 2016 by the then Director of the SA Maritime Museum as being a site of national significance as an extremely rare, complete example of its type and remarkably well preserved in its original condition.

8. Significance Criteria

The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which places are assessed as 'State significant.' Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.

☒ **It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.**

It is significant from a state perspective in that it is encapsulated in the unique story of the maritime relationship between Finland and South Australia through the windjammer grain trade. Many Finnish sailors settled on the southern coast, carving out trades and lives, and sharing their centuries old maritime skills and traditions.

Following the 2009 demolition of the boatyards in the Jenkins Road precinct of the Central Basin at Port Adelaide to make way for urban redevelopment, the Axel Stenross boatshed became the only remaining example of the State's former plethora of boat-building yards that crafted wooden vessels for maritime trade, commercial fishing and recreation purposes.

It ranks equally with Blunt's boatshed in Williamstown Victoria as a nationally-significant example of early twentieth century working boat shed.

The building is also of local significance in that Port Lincoln is a town that survived on and thrived from its maritime industries (fishing being key). The town's wealth relied on boats for fishing, trading and recreation. The boats that were built at the current site on the foreshore between 1930 and 1980 met those needs.

The boatshed and its original contents clearly demonstrate and provide a unique insight into the boat-building skills, tools and construction methods, and the living and working conditions of the era. The historic significance of this unique original building cannot be replicated.

☐ **It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.**

☐ **It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.**

☐ **It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.**

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<input type="checkbox"/>	It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.	The building is the core of the Museum that is itself socially significant as its inception and its current state demonstrates a stable and deeply involved community of volunteers dedicated to preserving the memory of Axel Stenross and displaying elements of the broader maritime history of lower Eyre Peninsula.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.	Axel was an iconic local personality and the boatshed is an iconic structure in Port Lincoln. As such, the museum is important in the history of the Port Lincoln community and as major tourist attraction of the region.

E. Additional Information

9. Images/Maps/Diagrams/Site Plans

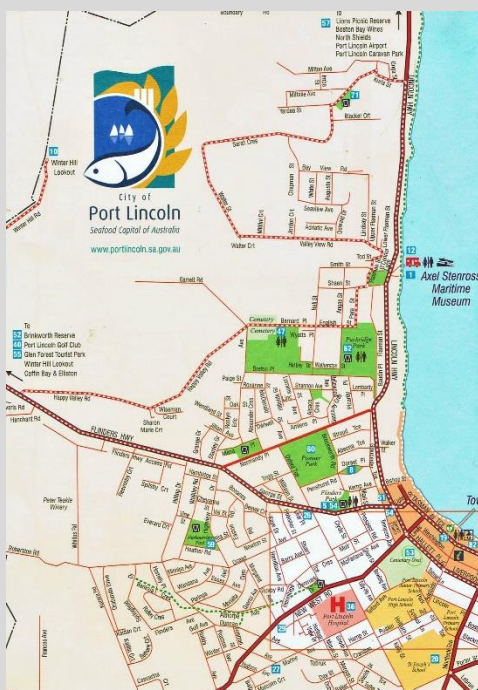
A full range of images including maps, site plans, and photographs will help your nomination.

Please provide:

- a clear outline of the place or object being nominated within any maps or plans provided
- high quality images of the place or object (please list the total number of images being provided)
- the subject of each image
- the date each image was created
- the author of each image, and
- the copyright holder of each image (if known)

Paste images here:

Plate 1—Location plan



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Plate 2—Site aerial



Axel Stenross Maritime Museum Collection 2019

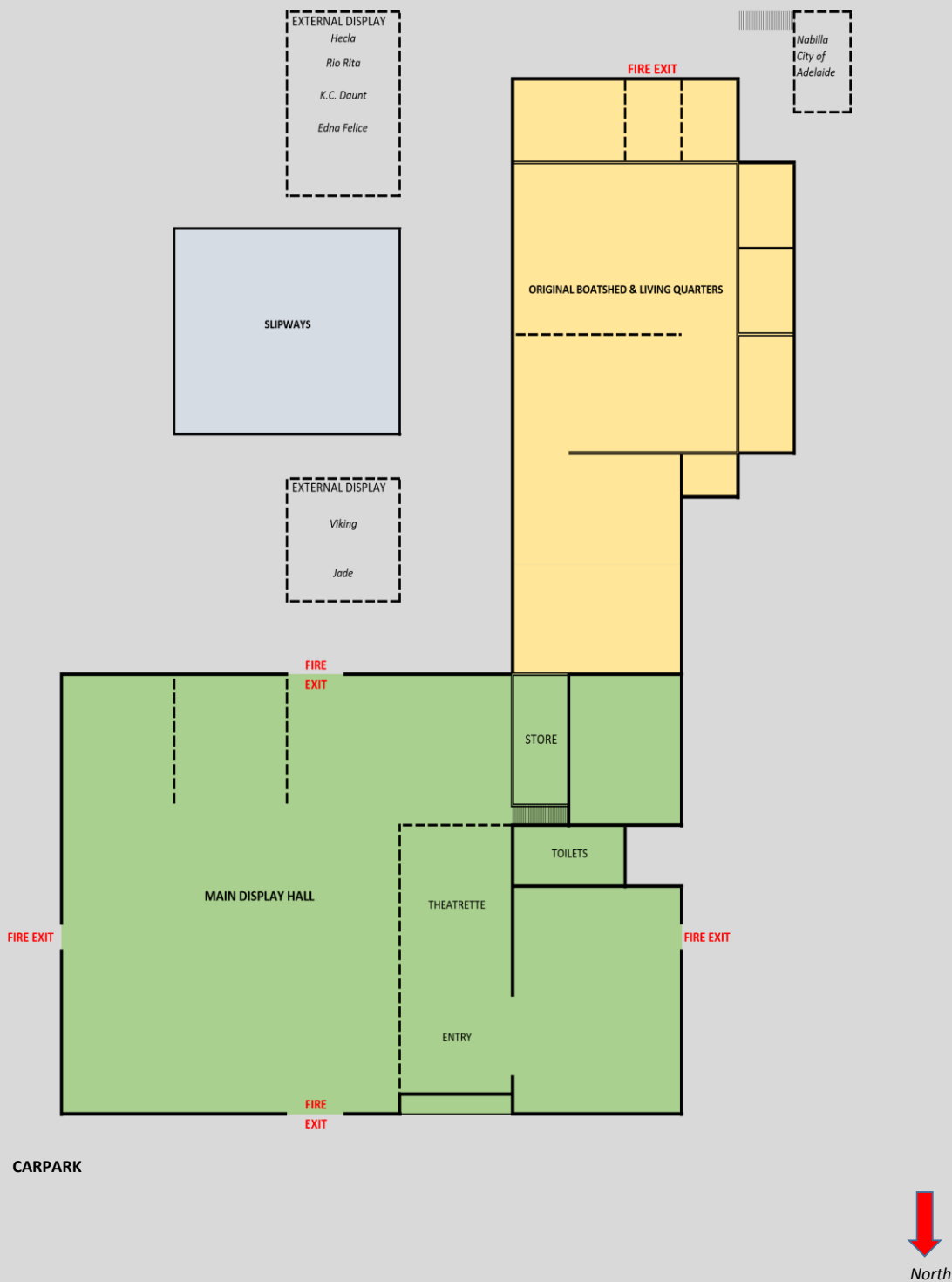
Plate 3—Site aerial showing proximity of historic First Landing site



Axel Stenross Maritime Museum Collection 2017

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Plate 4—Site layout (schematic)

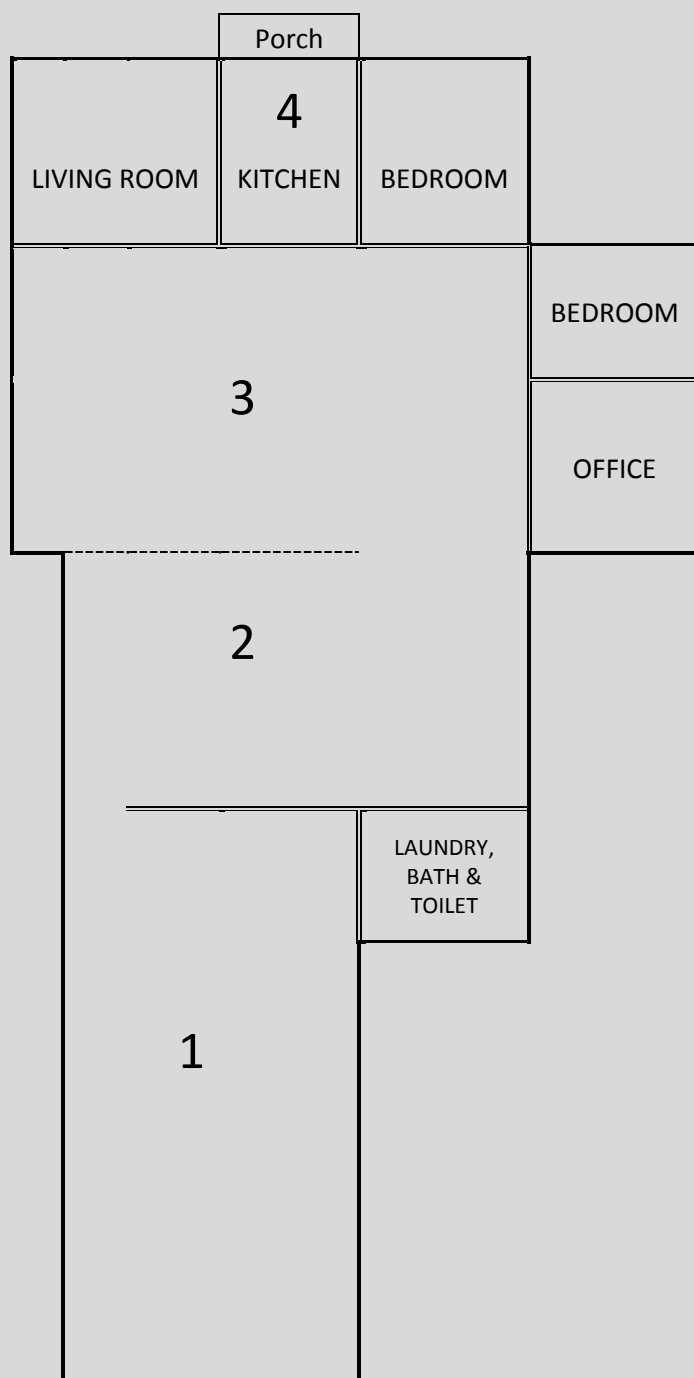


SITE LAYOUT

SCHEMATIC – NOT TO SCALE

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Plate 5—Boatshed floor plan (nominated building)



1. Blacksmith Shop
2. Winch room/timber milling/paint shop
3. Boatbuilding Workshop
4. Living quarters

FLOOR PLAN

Not to scale

Plate 6—McFarlane boatshed 1930–1939



Axel Stenross Maritime Museum Collection

Plate 7—Stenross boatshed, living quarters & blacksmith shop 1940–1980



Axel Stenross Maritime Museum Collection

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Plate 8—Boatshed and slipway (centre) today



Axel Stenross Maritime Museum Collection 2014

Plate 9—Axel's workbench



Axel Stenross Maritime Museum Collection

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Plate 10—Blacksmith's shop



Axel Stenross Maritime Museum Collection

Plate 11—Living Room



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Plate 12—Kitchen



Plate 13—Bathroom & lavatory



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

I, _____ nominate Axel Stenross boatshed, blacksmith shop and living quarters to be heritage listed.

The information I have provided is correct to my knowledge.

Your Signature:

Date: 18/02/2021

A heritage officer may contact you to discuss aspects of the nomination.

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Nomination Form Checklist

Please check that your nomination includes:

- ☐ A clear indication of the location of the place or object (including map/s). Where a number of features are nominated, show the location of each and/or a boundary surrounding the significant elements of the site.
- ☐ A history of the place or object explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination.
This should generally help support arguments of cultural significance.
- ☐ A clear description of the nominated place or object/s.
- ☐ A statement of significance and indication on how the place or object satisfies one or more of the significance criteria.
- ☐ A heritage officer may contact you to discuss aspects of the nomination.

Email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au

Post: Executive Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Department for Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide 5001