

OLD GRANDSTAND, VICTORIA PARK RACECOURSE

off Wakefield Road



(CD Ref 2835/61)

Horse racing has been conducted on the east Park Lands since the 1840s. This structure dates from the early 1880s, the period of the establishment of several cultural institutions on North Terrace and the expansion of the Botanic Gardens, the opening of the Zoological Gardens and the creation of the Torrens Lake all of which did much to enliven the appearance and improve the quality of life in Adelaide.



(CD Ref 2835/59)

The old course was renamed Victoria Park in 1897 in honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. An earlier grandstand with a substantial masonry base and side walls survived until at least the 1880s in close proximity to this historical grandstand.

About 1890 it was replaced by one situated further to the south, and by 1912 an additional grandstand had been built. The present grandstand was erected in response to the rivalry which then existed between the 'old course' and the racecourse at Morphettville. It also had to satisfy the agreement between the Adelaide Racing Club and the Adelaide City Council that the trustees of the club were bound to spend £2500 on the erection of a grandstand. In April 1882 architects Bayer and Withall for the Adelaide Racing Club forwarded to the Adelaide City Council plans of a grandstand in excess of £3000 in value. When constructed, the council reported that the lessees were to be congratulated for providing such an ornament to the east Park Lands.

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The structure still retains its ornamental function dominated by extensive use of cast-iron, the delicacy and intricacy of which contrasts well with the massive bluestone base. The stand, originally symmetrical about the gabled main entrance over the present trainers' box, was enlarged at some time after the First World War and these extensions were carried out in total sympathy with the original section, utilising ironwork of identical design by Forwood, Down and Company, and A.C. Harley.

The grandstand is an important example of the use of cast-iron in a non-domestic situation, its significance being enhanced by its association with the development of the 'old course'. The design of the main entrance with complex double curved match boarding is distinctive, as are the staircases which lead from ground level to the original seating above. Although additions have been made at the



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rear, the integrity of the structure remains high.

ACA, *Annual report 1912*, p. 112, *Digest of Proceedings*, 30 January 1882, 24 April 1882, Historical photographs; Adelaide Racing Club, *Victoria Park Adelaide, South Australia, The course of natural beauty*; centenary, 1871-1971.

The text in this Information Sheet was copied from the **Heritage of the City of Adelaide: An Illustrated Guide**, (1996). The photographs contained in this Information Sheet are a selection of those held by Heritage Services, in digital format.

The property described in this Information Sheet is included in the Register of State Heritage places. A heritage listing does not mean or imply right of access by the public to such properties.

The heritage related Principles of Development Control as well as the Precinct specific objectives and Principles of Development Control are contained in the Adelaide (City) Development Plan. These should be referred to in whole when contemplating any development.

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Further information on the Heritage Incentives Scheme, an initiative of Council to sponsor timely and appropriate conservation action is available upon request of the Customer Service Centre.



CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	OLD GRANDSTAND AT VICTORIA PARK RACECOURSE	Building No 160501
Address	East Park Lands (Park No. 16.05), off Wakefield Road	

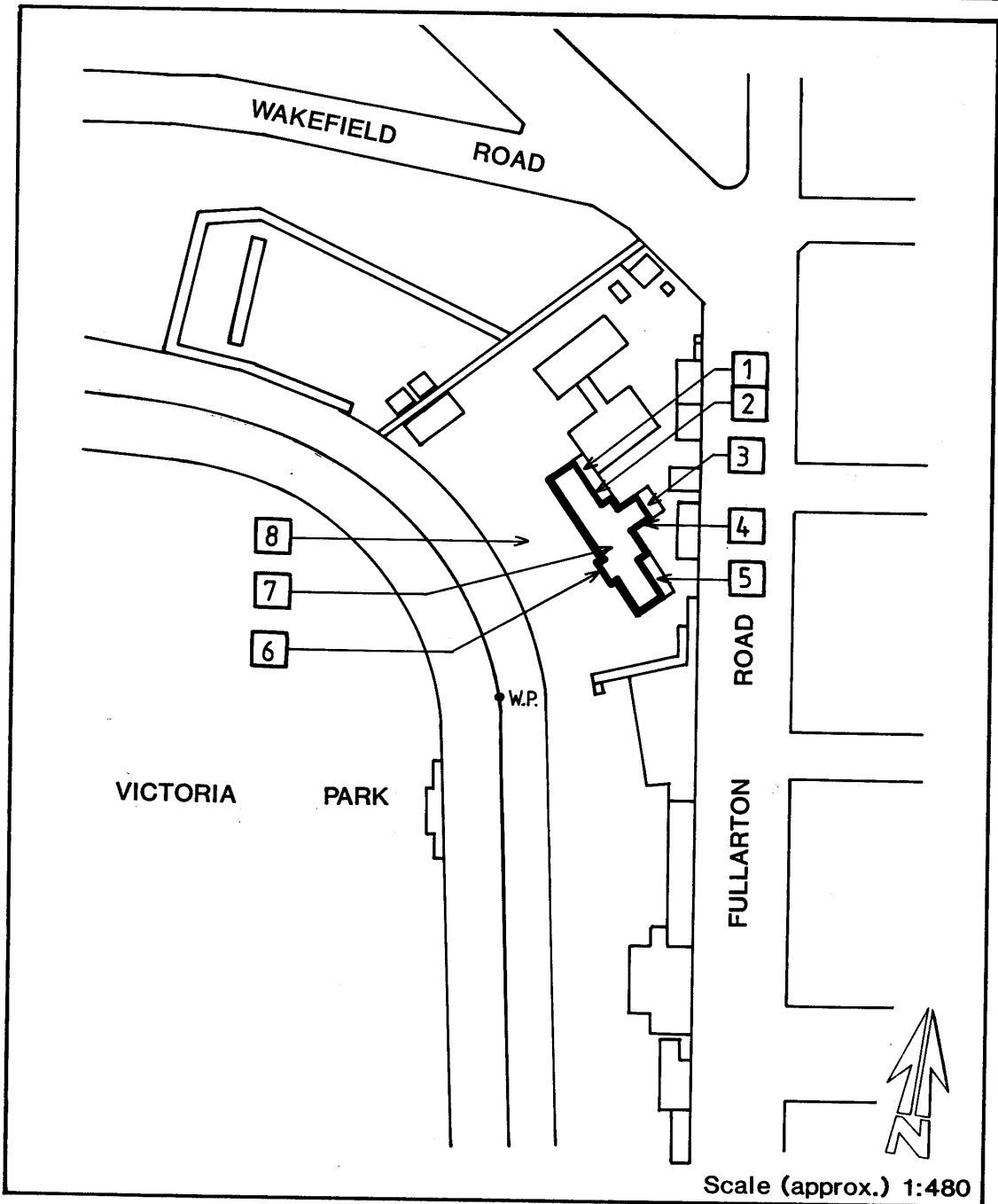


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NOTES:

1. Rendered.
2. Note leadlight windows.
3. Iron addition.
4. Brick.
5. Bluestone rubble with brick quoins and some stucco enrichment.
6. Note gable's timber joinery.
7. Note metal cresting.
8. Grandstand. Note cast iron balustrading, spandrels and columns.