Historical
Walking Trail
South East Corner

The Village in the City
Adelaide | South Australia

In the late 19th Century, people from all social levels lived in the south eastern corner of the city. The wealthy occupied mansions on East and South Terrace, the growing middle class lived in Victorian villas in Halifax and Gilles Streets, while the intervening small cottages were filled by workers who were able to walk to work or work from home.

Pastoralists, government workers, publicans, policemen and plasterers all lived in close proximity. However in the 1920s and 1930s it became fashionable to move to the suburbs on the other side of the south and east Park Lands.

Allow 1.5 hours to do this walk

HUTT STREET PRECINCT

FLINDERS STREET

TERRACE

GLOVER PLAYGROUND

T Toilet

N
W E
S

WAKEFIELD STREET

WAKEFIELD ROAD

STREET

21 20

19
18
17

EAST

ANGAS STREET

16

22

EAST TERRACE

FINISH

23

15

CARRINGTON STREET

START

1

STREET

KATE COURT

13

MARION ST

TOMSEY ST

14

2

12

11

HALIFAX STREET

HUTT

CORRYTON

ADA ST

POWER ST

ROYAL AVE

ST JOHN ST

10

EAST TERRACE

RACECOURSE

3

GILLES STREET

4

VINCENT ST

ST JOHN LANE

9

5

6

7 8

EAST TERRACE

SOUTH TERRACE

PARKLANDS

CITY

ADELAIDE
CITY COUNCIL

1. General Havelock Hotel, 162 – 166 Hutt Street

The hotel was named after Sir Henry Havelock, a British General, who had led a force to relieve the Residency at Lucknow besieged by 60,000 rebellious Sepoys during the Indian Mutiny of 1857. When this hotel was built in 1873 there were still large areas of vacant land east of Hutt Street. The verandas and balconies were added a few years after construction.

Walk south along Hutt Street and turn left into Halifax Street.

2. House, 306 Halifax Street

This house on the corner of Kate Court is a typical example of a Victorian villa built in the late 19th century. The sitting room features a gabled extension beyond the line of the verandah. This was becoming fashionable because it allowed the residents to have larger rooms for entertaining. During 1896 and 1897 this house was occupied by Mr John Virgo who was appointed as secretary of the South Australian Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). Virgo was also involved in establishing Our Boys Institute at number 219-223 Wakefield Street to provide activities for the boys in the district.

Cross over to the southern side of Halifax Street and proceed south along Power Street to Gilles Street.

3. Shop, 366a Gilles Street (north west corner of Power Street)

Mrs Mary-Anne Besley, who came from England in 1851, ran a shop on these premises for many years. She was the mother of a locally renowned police officer, Inspector Brian Besley. Brian joined the mounted police in 1854 and later introduced the idea of using camels on outback patrols. As a result of his intimate knowledge of the Aboriginal culture and languages he was appointed Sub-Protector of Aborigines. When he died 1,200 people attended his funeral, an indication of the respect with which he was held in the community.

Cross to the southern side of Gilles Street and head west.

4. Corner Shop, 337 Gilles Street

This is an example of the "corner shop" which flourished until the advent of the supermarket. Until the 1960s nearly everyone in metropolitan Adelaide was within walking distance of a corner shop which would stock food and other goods. It was common for these shops to have wide verandas to keep them cool on hot summer days. Because of the long hours worked, the shopkeeper usually lived on the premises.

Continue west along Gilles Street and turn left/south into Vincent Place. Turn left following Vincent Place and right (south) into Vincent Street. Continue south until you reach South Terrace. No 5 is on the corner to your right.

5. House, 339 South Terrace

Despite some later additions, this two storey house on the corner of Vincent Street has retained the elegance that it had in its heyday. Its first occupant was William Watts, who had pastoral interests in the colony. Another tenant was the Rev. George Davidson who arrived in the colony in 1898 to be minister at the Flinders Street Presbyterian Church.

Continue east along South Terrace to St Andrews Hospital.

6. House, "Waverly", 360 South Terrace (St Andrews Hospital grounds)

Completed in 1865, this was one of the first mansions to be built in the south eastern corner. It was designed by the architect James MacGeorge in the neo-Gothic influence of pattern-book design style that became so popular in the 19th Century. The house was built for William Sanders who arrived in the colony in 1838 and for a time lived in a tent. He became partner in the Miller Anderson store in Hindley Street. In 1873 the house was bought by Thomas Richard Bowman, whose brother Edmund built Martindale Hall at Mintaro, near Clare.

Continue east along South Terrace to No 378.

7. House, 378 South Terrace

Despite having the "trademark" white plastered portico which is also found on the Kingston-designed Ayers House on North Terrace, there is some uncertainty whether this South Terrace house was designed by Sir George Kingston. It is thought that the house was built for Edmund William Wright, the architect and civil engineer, in 1857. Whilst it is not symmetrical, its simple detailing give it a classic appearance.

Continue east to the corner of South Terrace and East Terrace.

8. House, "Ochiltree", corner of South and East Terrace

Ochiltree, built in 1882, is one of the most flamboyant of all the mansions built in south-east Adelaide, and one of the many built for pastoralists. It has a Victorian Italianate look, but its most unusual feature is its mansard roof which reflects a French influence. Ochiltree was built in 1882 by G. Joachimi for the well known pastoralist John Rounsevell, who came to South Australia in 1839 with his family on the ship City of Adelaide. His most notable venture was the purchase of the enormous Moolooloo Station in the Flinders Ranges and he held public office as Member for Light and Gumeracha.

Continue north along East Terrace to Gilles Street.

9. House, "St Corantyn", 261 – 263 East Terrace

This mansion has a strong Gothic influence with its pointed windows edged with pillars and its castellated chimneys. Originally named Eotherm, it was built in 1891 for Charles Hornabrook who made his fortune as the licensee of the York Hotel in Rundle Street and by some shrewd purchases of real estate. In 1928 Sir John Lavington Bonython and his family moved into the house which he renamed St Corantyn. He took over the proprietorship of The Advertiser newspaper from his father. In 1910 he became the youngest Mayor of Adelaide and held the office on five occasions. He was a foundation member of the board of the South Australian Housing Trust.

Continue west along Gilles Street and then turn right into St Johns Street.

10. St John's Church and Priory, 10 St John's Street and 373 Halifax Street

The priory is a well preserved two storey building decorated with cast iron lace work on its veranda and balcony. It was built in 1883 as a new rectory for the Reverend E Stanley Poole to the design of the architect, Frank H. Carter. Since 1983 it has been the Adelaide home for the Society of the Sacred Mission.

The original St John's Church was dedicated in 1841, two years after its foundation stone was laid, on land which had been the gift of Osmond Gilles who was the Colonial Treasurer. Increasing attendances enabled the parish to build a new hall in 1879, followed by the rectory in 1883. By 1886 the original church was in such a dilapidated condition that it was condemned by the Corporation Surveyor. The present church was consecrated by Bishop Kennion in October 1887. It is substantially built of sandstone rubble with brick dressings.

Cross over to the northern side of Halifax Street and walk west to the corner of Tomsey Street.

11. Shop/Residence, 364 Halifax Street

The original one storey shop and residence was built in 1875 by James Thompson, who lived there alone until 1881 when he shared it with J.H. Smeaton, an architect. In 1882 Thompson was found dead in the bottom of a well at a nearby pub. The house had several owners from then on, one of whom added a second storey.

Continue west along Halifax Street and turn north along Marion Street until you reach Carrington Street. Turn left (west).

12. Houses, 334 – 338 Halifax (corner of Marion Street)

The architect of this row of houses, Thomas H. Smeaton, called for tenders in 1892 having been commissioned by Miss Harriet Kevern. While there are some distinctively Victorian features such as the bay windows decorated by small columns with foliated capitals, there are also details such as the gable which anticipate the Edwardian age. One of the first tenants was Charles Cawthorne who went on to establish the well known musical firm, Cawthorne's. He assisted in the formation of the Adelaide Grand Orchestra and started Australian baritone Peter Dawson, who was one of the first singers to be heard widely on gramophone, on his career.

Turn right into Marion Street and walk north to Carrington Street. Turn left.

13. Terrace Houses, 355 – 367 Carrington Street

These simply constructed terrace houses, part of the surge in building activity to meet increased demand for housing between 1878 and 1882, are more typical of those found in Sydney and Melbourne than Adelaide. An unusual feature of these terraces is the individually hipped roofs. The group forms an important part of the streetscape with its relative unity and size.

Turn back east and continue along Carrington Street over Tomsey Street to 407.

14. Houses, 407, 409, 411, 413 Carrington Street

This group of four almost identical houses was built in the early 1880s when land prices in the City peaked. Each two storey single-fronted dwelling is constructed of bluestone and brick with stuccoed doorway and window surrounds. These dwellings are representative of the construction boom of the late 1870s and early 1880s to house the rapidly expanding City population, which doubled from the 1860s to the 1880s. The similar balconies and fences give the separate houses the appearance of a single terrace.

Cross to the northern side of Carrington Street and continue east.

15. House, "Springhill Lodge", 416 – 420 Carrington Street

Springhill Lodge was built in 1897 for Dr Alexander Paterson. It was designed by architect Edward John Woods. Dr Paterson, who came from Edinburgh, took up a position at the Adelaide Lunatic Asylum in 1867, and was gazetted colonial surgeon with responsibility for the Asylum, Adelaide Gaol and the country hospitals. Following his retirement due to ill health he continued in limited private practice from Springhill Lodge. In 1913 Springhill Lodge was bought by the Young Women's Christian Association for hostel accommodation, which was built at the rear. The house is Queen Anne in style, typified by its asymmetrical plan, polychrome brickwork and ornate joinery.

Walk east to the corner of East Terrace, turn left (north) and follow East Terrace left into Angas Street.

16. Salvation Army Women's Hostel, 343 – 345 Angas Street

The Salvation Army in Australia was founded in Adelaide in 1880 and in the following year, the colony welcomed its first Salvationist leader, Captain Sutherland. The Salvation Army Women's Hostel, designed by Percival Dale, a Salvation Army officer, provided low cost accommodation for the many young women moving into clerical and other professions in the City in the 1920s. The simple design is enhanced by the detailing of the balconies and verandah.

Return to East Terrace and head north towards Wakefield Street.

17. House, "Craigweil", 161 – 162 East Terrace

Craigweil was built in 1886 for the Hon. Alexander Hay, a prominent resident of Adelaide. Hay was a President of the Young Men's Christian Association and first chief of the Calendonian Society.

He was also a member of the Legislative Council for 18 years. Craigweil was designed by Thomas Hyland Smeaton, who had come to South Australia in 1879 to take up an appointment as Clerk of Works to the government. The house has a unique asymmetrical design with an elaborate gable detail.

18. House, 156 – 158 East Terrace

This former Wesleyan Manse was completed in 1885. The architect, John Haslam, also designed Rymill House (91 – 100 East Terrace). The manse served the church for 12 years, during which time five different parsons lived there. It was sold in 1896 to James Henderson who named the house Duntocher. While its asymmetrical façade is typical of houses of the period, the masonry arcading to the ground floor is relatively unusual, with its timber balustrading to the east and north facing verandas and the detailing of the gable face.

Corner of East Terrace and Wakefield Street.

19. House, "Weeroni", 144 – 153 East Terrace

This corner house, built for A H C Jensen in 1896, is representative of aspects of late 19th century residential development in Adelaide. The design of this house appears earlier than it is, with its bay windows and return verandah. The gabled roofing and stucco work is worth noting. The house is constructed of freestone with an elaborate use of cast iron. The two storey additions at the rear were approved in 1923.

Turn left and walk west along Wakefield Street to 339.

20. House, "Cartref", 339 Wakefield Street

Cartref was built in 1882 for Joachim Matthias Wendt who founded the prominent firm of jewellers in SA. Wendt came from Holstein (then part of Denmark) in 1854. He established a watchmaker and jeweller business in the central business district and was involved in other commercial ventures including the Theatre Royal (1868), Adelaide Arcade (1885) and the Freemason's Hall in Flinders Street. The house is a typical 'boom period' villa with two storey asymmetrical form and bay window.

Continue west along Wakefield Street to neighbouring property.

21. House, "Carhayes", 327 – 337 Wakefield Street

The original part of the house was built in 1878-79 for Thomas Barnfield who emigrated to the goldfields of Victoria from England in 1842. After moving to Adelaide, Barnfield established a successful career in mining. In 1889 Barnfield sold the house to John Langdon Bonython, one time proprietor of The Advertiser newspaper and noted public figure in Adelaide.

Bonython was knighted in 1898 in recognition of his public service. His eldest son, John Lavington Bonython lived in Carhayes until 1928 when he moved to St Corantyn on East Terrace. Carhayes was extended twice in the early years of the Bonython residence, with a drawing room and dining room to the east and a two storey section at the rear.

Continue west along Wakefield Street to Hutt Street, turn left and continue south along Hutt Street over Angas Street to 146.

22. Victoria Terrace, 146 – 158 Hutt Street

The Terrace highlights the prominent residential character of the southern and eastern sectors of Adelaide in the mid nineteenth century. It was built by William Gully in 1866 and passed to Heinrich Wilhelm Ehmcke and then W H Gray. Gray was an early Adelaide speculator and by the end of the 19th century many of his properties were dilapidated and were demolished following his death. In 1888 Victoria Terrace was considered unfit for human habitation and condemned but was not demolished. The terrace, with its typically mid-Victorian rear apartments, is simply but substantially built.

23. Former Shop and Dwelling, 160 Hutt Street

This corner shop, together with the adjacent Victoria Terraces, was designed and built in 1866 by William Gully. The development passed to W H Ehmcke and later to W H Gray, both of whom were noted property developers in the City. This building typifies nineteenth commercial development in Adelaide with its corner site, chamfered corner entrance and elaborate stucco work. The shop is constructed of brick and is rather elaborate, contrasting with the adjoining Victoria Terrace which is constructed of bluestone and is of a more austere style.

The walks ends here.