

3.0 ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AND SQUARES

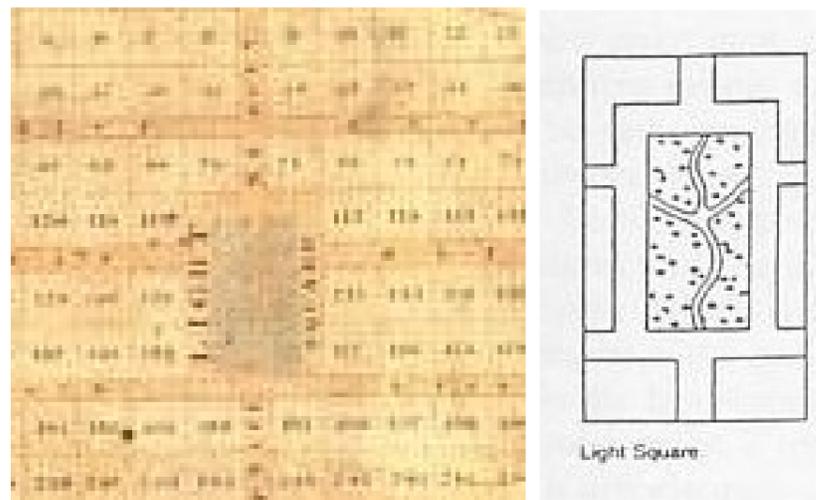
3.1.31 Light Square Report



Light Square

Historical Overview: Site Context

Light Square exists as rectangular square, or village green, as originally envisaged and laid out by Colonel Light in his 1836 survey 'Plan of Adelaide'. It was named on 23 May 1837 by the Street Naming Committee in honour of Colonel William Light's survey, which Light also served upon. No change to this surveyed plan has occurred thereafter.



Figures

Left: Plan of Hindmarsh Square as portrayed in the 'Plan of the City of Adelaide 1836' as prepared by Colonel Light. Source: ACC Archive.
 Right: Abstracted plan of Hindmarsh Square as portrayed in the 'Plan of the City of Adelaide 1836' as prepared by Colonel Light, indicating Light's theoretical garden design and pathway system for Hindmarsh Square. Source: Russell 1992, p. 3.

Historical Overview: Aboriginal Associations

There are several specific references to Kaurna sites or activities, pre-contact or post-contact, for Light Square. The Square appears to have had a long association with Indigenous communities since European settlement (Draper *et al* 2005; Hemming 1998).

In the early 1900s it was a favoured venue for gatherings by families. Charles Knuckey recalls in an oral history:

... in those days the aboriginals were in the West Parklands and they used to go up and down ... with their little Pikanninies on their backs up to Light Square ... settled there for the day and then in the evening they used to go back – they lived out in the open – in the Parklands ... they never interfered with anybody – they just went up and down [between the Observatory now Adelaide High School and Light Square] ... on their own way you know (Knuckey in Hemming 1998, pp. 57-58).

The West End of Adelaide was a popular residential venue for Indigenous people in the 1900s-1960s. In particular, from the 1920s to the 1960s Light Square was a focus of Indigenous activities that shifted to Tarndanyangga/Victoria Square in the 1960s. These activities included a role as a central meeting place, as a gathering place, and as a drinking venue (Draper *et al* 2005, pp. 31-32, 95; Hemming 1998, pp. 22, 57-58).

Anthropologists Ronald and Catherine Berndt observed in *From Black to White in South Australia* (1951, p. 257) that:

On fine weekends or on holidays, 'aboriginals' and white residents of the West End gather in the city squares at their end of town ... but the usual tendency is for them to stay in separate groups. Plain clothes policemen keep an eye on them to see that no liquor is passed and that there is no soliciting. And while the elders sit on the benches and gossip or furtively gamble at cards, the children play about the lawns.

Historical Overview: Post-Contact Associations

Colonel William Light died on 5 October 1839 with the wish that "he should be known to posterity as the founder of Adelaide." He was buried in Light Square and an obelisk erected on his grave (Vivienne 1908, pp. 3-4).

In February 1843 the Corporation erected the first stone over Colonel Light's grave in Light Square. The memorial, erected by public subscription, was designed as a Gothic pillar by architect and politician George Strickland Kingston and erected by contractor Samuel Lewis at a cost of £460. There was no inscription on this monument until 1876 (Worsnop 1878, pp. 78-79).



Figure

Sketch of 'Colonel Light's Monument, Light Square, Adelaide, South Australia' by WC Fitter ("WCF"), no date, that depicts the original Gothic-style Colonel William Light Memorial as designed by architect and politician George Strickland Kingston that was apparently loosely based upon GG Scott and WB Moffatt's Martyr's Memorial in Oxford designed and erected in 1840. Image in Rex Nan Kivell Collection, National Library of Australia, reproduced from Langmead 1994, p. 212.

In April 1854 the colonial government was petitioned by the Corporation for funds to fence, layout and plant all the Squares, including tabling specifications "for the fencing and planting the public squares &c" in the municipality. These documents identify principally Victoria Square but it was clear from the specification that the intent applied to all the squares, as it detailed the number and species of trees to be planted, including specimens of *Acacia* sp (*Robinia* spp?), almond (*Prunus dulcis*), olive (*Olea europaea*), "gum tree" (*Eucalyptus* spp), poplar (*Populus* spp), cypress (*Cupressus* spp), and others, with some 3,000 to be planted in Victoria Square, 1,500 each in Hindmarsh, Light, Hurtle and Whitmore squares, 500 in the Palmer Gardens/Pangki Pangki/Park 28, 1,000 in Wellington Square, and 500 in the Brougham Gardens/Tandotittinga/Park 29 (State Records Office, Colonial Secretary's Office, Correspondence, Town Clerk, Adelaide City Council, to Colonial Secretary, 29 April 1854, GRG 24/6/1310; Specification for Planting the Squares, 12 April 1854, ACC Archive SQ18540504).

Light Square was clearly included in these discussions and in the planting program.

On 4 May 1854 the colonial government, through the Lieutenant Governor, acceded to this proposal and granted £2,000, in that time a considerable expenditure "for planting and ornamenting the squares of the city" to a level that "the Council may be enabled to carry out in a manner satisfactory to the Citizens of Adelaide" (Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, 4 May 1854, VS18540504; Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, 4 May 1854, GRG 24/6/1108. Reputedly, over half of this money was expended on works in Victoria Square. A condition of the funds was that tenders would "be called for by advertisement for fencing and planting the squares of Adelaide in accordance with plans and specifications adopted by the Council." Whether the contract was actually advertised in the newspapers is unclear, but horticulturist and later first director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden was the successful tenderer (Worsnop 1878, p. 121; *The Register*, 9 May 1854, p. 2).

In his "Tender for the Laying out and Planting the Public Squares &c of the City of Adelaide", dated 18 May 1854, Francis proposed to undertake all layout and planting works in all the Squares and Gardens but excluded the fencing. He claimed that, "The whole planting may be completed in 5 months from the present time, provided the fencing be completed in 3 months & provided also that Victoria Square be done first" (Best 1986, p. 48; George Francis, "Tender for the Laying out and Planting the Public Squares &c of the City of Adelaide", 18 May 1854, ACC Archives SQ18540518).

By September 1855 Francis reported that all these laying out and planting activities had been completed. This is the first record of conscious landscape design works and planting activities in the Squares, laying much of the spatial and planting framework that inaugural City Gardener William O'Brien obviously adopted and utilised when appointed to this position in 1865. It is also probable, given Francis' self-promotional activities seeking the establishment of a botanic garden, that Francis used this tender as an opportunity to trial species as to their relevance to the soils, climate and conditions of the squares and gardens, as it is clear that he may have planted more specimens than required by the tender (Best 1986, p. 48; *The Register* 6 June 1855, p. 2).

Olives (*Olea europaea*) appear as an under-current in this experimentation, preceding their *en masse* planting in plantations in the Park Lands, but clearly not a lot of specimens were planted in the squares and gardens. By 1886 Italian olive (*Olea europaea*) expert Paolo Villanis reported the existence of some 29 fruit-bearing species remaining in the Brougham Gardens/Tandotittinga/Park 29, some 5 specimens in the Palmer Gardens/Pangki Pangki/Park 28, some 19 specimens in Wellington Square, some 8 specimens in Hindmarsh Square, some 14 specimens in Light Square, and some 6 specimens in Whitmore Square. Villanis, an expert in olive (*Olea europaea*) propagation and cultivation makes no mention of the other Squares, so it is fair to say that by 1886 there were no olive (*Olea europaea*) trees in these squares and that O'Brien

had reviewed and assessed their condition and integrity of retention within his parks and gardens development works (Correspondence, Paolo Villanis to Town Clerk, Report re Olive Plantations, 22 February 1886, TC 1886/465).

Discussions by the Corporation and the Mayors (Lord Mayors) about landscaping the River Torrens/Karrawirra Parri embankments as well as the Park Lands and Squares generally were commonplace from the mid 1850s onwards.

These public debates and discussions appear to have been prompted by concerns from the colonial Governor about the overall aesthetic appearance of the Park Lands. For example, on 17 July 1855 the Colonial Secretary wrote to the Corporation's Town Clerk expressing a desire "that something should be done to improve the present very unsightly appearance of most of the Park Lands near the Town; which he [Governor Gawler] thinks might be effected by the judicious planting of clumps of trees on half acres [0.2ha] or even quarter acres [0.1ha] in suitable positions; care being taken to fence such clumps with strong but neat fencing." Willingly, to assist these landscaping works, the Governor volunteered a budget of £400, "a sum sufficient to accomplish much, but not all that he wishes" which the Corporation eagerly accepted "at once to carry out His Excellency's wishes and propose to do so by means of competent gardeners [on] contracts to be obtained by advertisements in the usual newspapers, the works generally being performed under the supervision of the City Surveyor." With acceptance, the Governor imposed one condition requiring the appointment of an expert referee to monitor the works: "that some person should be nominated by himself to represent the Executive in this matter and to have a voice in the selection of the position of the several plantations and of the species of fencing to be made use of." The Colonial Secretary appointed horticulturist John Bailey, of Hackney Nursery, to this role. Unfortunately this scheme collapsed with the dissolution of the Legislative Council in August 1855 despite unknown authored sketch "on the subject of planting a Public Square" being sent to the Corporation on 9 October 1855, with correspondence from the Governor indicating that "the writer of the memorandum has indicated some most sensible and just views of Landscape Gardening..." The advice included a recommendation that, "in a climate like South Australia's and to avoid the inconvenience of having to wait years for effect, clumps should be formed of the Olive [*Olea europaea*], the Wattle [*Acacia* spp] and Gum-tree [*Eucalyptus* spp]..." It is possible the plan author was Francis, more so than Bailey as there is no evidence of Bailey's plan drawing skills whereas the sketch the text is similar in style to Francis's hand (Letter, Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 7 July 1855, GRG 24/6/1381 (1855); letter, Town Clerk, ACC, to Colonial Secretary, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2505 (1855); letter, Town Clerk, ACC, to Colonial Secretary, 13 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2644 (1855); Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/1605 (1855); Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 20 August 1855, GRG 24/6/1740 (1855) Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/2129 (1855) Colonial Secretary to Town Clerk, ACC, 2 August 1855, GRG 24/6/3289 (1855)).

While Francis, Bailey and Sheriff Boothby were predominantly planting olive (*Olea europaea*) trees in the Park Lands, City Gardener William Pengilly also undertook olive (*Olea europaea*) plantings in several areas. During 1872 he planted them in Light Square, numbering 70, as well as numerous other trees in other Park Land blocks and Squares. Villanis, in 1882, corroborated the existence of these plantings when he reviewed the state and condition of all the olive (*Olea europaea*) plantations in the Park Lands for the Corporation recording substantial olive in many areas of the Park Lands and Squares (Letter, Paolo Villanis to Town Clerk, 13 July 1883, TC 1883/2224; *The Register*, 24 July 1883, p. 6; letter, Paolo Villanis to Town Clerk, 22 February 1886, TC 1886/465; letter, William Pengilly to Town Clerk, 16 July 1872, TC 1872/519 and 4 September 1872, TC 1872/622).

Recognition of the poor state of the garden system in the municipality prompted the Corporation to call for applicants for the position of City Gardener in 1854. William O'Brien was successful. An experienced Gardener born in c.1812 in Dublin, Ireland, O'Brien arrived in Adelaide in 1858 on the *Utopia*, and lived in North Adelaide. He died on 18 October 1884.

O'Brien's priority task upon his appointment was the condition of Victoria Square. O'Brien wrote of his works in the Square, in conjunction with his thoughts as to other Squares, as follows:

*Contractors are to remove fences on both divisions of Victoria Square and replace them in the southern part with a post and wire fence. The northern division of Victoria Square is to be fenced by the Corporation with iron hurdles and gates which have been procured from Messrs Morewood and Rogers. The paths are to be 16 feet [4.8m] wide and gravelled. We will dig a border around the whole at a given distance with a fence on both divisions ready for trees and plants as per the plan. I will plant a hedge of sweet briar [*Rosa* spp] along the whole of the fence. I intend to provide and plant 3,000 trees and shrubs, these being acacia [*Acacia* spp?], almond [*Prunus dulcis*], olive [*Olea europaea*], gums [*Eucalyptus* spp], poplars [*Populus* spp], cypress [*Cupressus* spp] and others, laburnum [*Laburnum* spp], honeysuckle [*Melaleuca* spp], willows [*Salix* spp], Spanish broom [*Spartium junceum*], aloes [*Aloe* spp], cactus, geraniums [*Geranium* spp], roses [*Rosa* spp] and some bulbs. All the open spaces will be regulated and planted with grass seed. Hurtle and Whitmore Squares will be fenced in with post and rail. The rails to be taken from Victoria Square and new ones provided if required. I will also dig a border as in Victoria Square and plant a hedge of sweet briar [*Rosa* spp] and plant at least 750 trees and shrubs in each Square. Similarly for Hindmarsh and Light Squares. Wellington and Hurtle Squares will be fenced and a briar [*Rosa* spp] hedge put in as before and 1,000 trees and shrubs (Mayoral Reports, 4 May 1854).*

This was an extensive and most detailed program of works for the first twelve months of his appointment, and unfortunately no plan exists to indicate his visions or his skill in horticulture and garden design. Despite these good intentions, O'Brien was hampered in the quality of his program due to the contractors. The gardens continued to deteriorate, the walks became infested with weeds, and were ill-maintained. He also sought from the Corporation a tree propagating area. Interesting, those species he did propagate were predominantly Australian species: South Australian Blue Gums (*Eucalyptus leucoxylon*), Olive (*Olea europaea*), River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), Willow (*Salix* spp), Roses (*Rosa* spp), Cork Oaks (*Quercus suber*), Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*), and Sheoaks (*Allocasuarina* spp) (*Register* 1863).

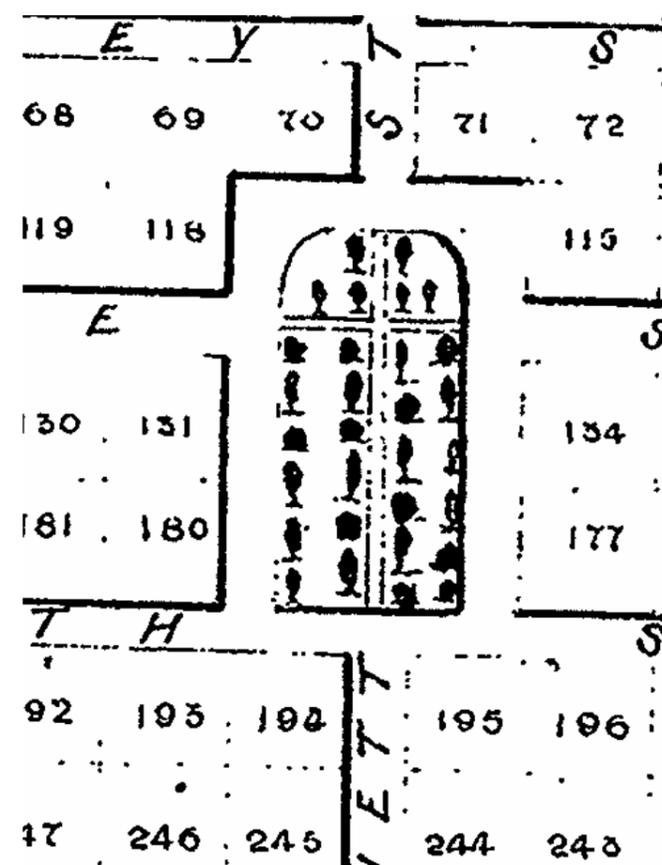


Figure
Extract from a 'Plan of the City of Adelaide' prepared by the City of Adelaide, City Engineers Department, 17 February 1865, depicting the planting organisation in Light Square. Note the regimented tree planting configuration, the absence of the present Currie Street roadway through the Square, the north-south and east-west cross pedestrian circulation system. Note also the absence of any sign of a Light Memorial or fountain in the centre of the Square. Source: ACC archives.

By 1866 O'Brien was pleased to report:

All trees are doing very well. All the roads and their adjacent forest belts are doing as well as can be desired. The view through the clumps and promenades of the city are highly creditable and will, I am told, contribute much to the health of the citizens. Light and Whitmore Squares which have always been so obstinate to cultivate trees in, have this year made a fine start. The ground which was brackish and sterile has been drained and improved and planted with olives [Olea europaea] which are now growing and promise to be quite successful. Fitzgerald and Evans, the two stationmen in these wards have been very vigilant in the capturing and impounding of goats, which were always so mischievous in these squares. The olive [Olea europaea] grounds at East Terrace, [and the] Moreton Bay figs [Ficus macrophylla] planted last winter in Wakefield Street are looking very brown due to the hot weather but are responding to watering. A new walk has been suggested for Victoria Square from the Post Office to the Government Printing Office (Mayoral Reports 6 May 1866).

Despite this pleasing success O'Brien had to deal with adjacent property owners who wished trees to be removed. For example, "Mr Richardson complains that his house (in Light Square) is blinded by young trees ..." ((Mayoral Reports 6 May 1866).

In August 1867 O'Brien wrote to Mayor Henry Fuller advising of extensive tree planting works that were carried out over the previous autumn planting season under his care. The list is

extensive and valuable to consider. Further, O'Brien records where these specimens were being generally planted but unfortunately not the specific details of these plantings per place. Specimens included "Laurels [*Laurus nobilis*; 249 in number], Oleanders [*Nerium oleander*; 216], Moreton Bay Figs [*Ficus macrophylla*; 6], China Privet [*Ligustrum lucidum*; 21], Stone Pines [*Pinus pinea*; 78], Native Pines [*Callitris/Casuarina/Allocasuarina* ssp; 1,627], Cupressus [*Cupressus* ssp; 24], White Cedar [*Melia azedarach* var *australisca*; 12], Gums [*Eucalyptus/Corymbia* ssp; 4,450], Poplars [*Populus* ssp; 100], Olives [*Olea europaea*; 10,600], Ficus [*Ficus* ssp; 99], Oaks [*Quercus* ssp; 280], Laurestinas [sic; *Viburnum tinus*; 149], Laburnums [*Laburnum x watereri*; 48], Sycamors [sic; *Platanus* ssp; 48], Elms [*Ulmus* ssp; 6], Walnuts [*Juglans regia*; 24], Pomegranates [*Punica granatum*; 2], Ash [*Fraxinus* ssp; 50], Aristolochias [*Aristolochia* ssp; 74]. Evergreen Oaks [*Quercus ilex*; 24], Whitethorn [*Crataegus monogyna*; 30], Acacias [*Acacia/Robinia* ssp; 14], Ches[t]nuts [*Castanea sativa*; 18], also, about one thousand willow [*Salix* ssp] and poplar [*Populus* ssp] cuttings, making a grand total of about 19,249 plants." In addition, O'Brien records donations of an unspecified number poplar (*Populus* ssp), rose (*Rosa* ssp), herbaceous plants and bulbs, willow (*Salix* ssp), bamboo (*Bambusa* ssp), privet (*Ligustrum* ssp), weeping willows (*Salix babylonica*), and five mulberries (*Morus* ssp) from various individuals. These were planted in various locations throughout the municipality including along "Both sides of the River Torrens" from Albert Bridge to the Weir (Karrawirra/Park 12, Tarndanya Womma/Park 26); along East, West, North and South Terraces; along the "North Terrace Esplanade"; in the East Park Lands (Kadlitpinna/Park 13, Mullawirraburka/Park 14, Ityamaitpinna/Park 15); in Tarndanyangga/Victoria, Hindmarsh and Light Squares; along Unley Road through the Park Lands (Pityarrilla/Park 19 and Kurrangga/Park 20); along the Slaughterhouse Road (Tulya Wodli/Park 27); behind the Cattle Yards in North Terrace adjoining the River (Tulya Wodli/Park 27); and, "19 native pines" to surround the house at the "old Botanic Gardens" (Tainmundilla/Park 11) (Letter from W O'Brien to the Mayor, 19 August 1867; ACC Archives).

This is an important inventory as it presents the most detailed account of the great number of trees that O'Brien was planting but also the typical species he was seeking to establish in the late 1860s in the municipality and the Park Lands. His preference was clearly towards a mixture of indigenous British and Mediterranean species, but interestingly demonstrates a strong overall preference to Australian native species including "Pines [*Pinus* ssp] ... [and] Gums [*Eucalyptus* ssp]." Unfortunately where these specimens are being planted is unclear but it is known that O'Brien was planting shelterbelts or avenues of *Eucalyptus* ssp along the entrance roadways, through the Park Lands, including "both sides of Unley Road" (Pityarrilla/Park 19 and Kurrangga/Park 20) to the municipality. The other important point is that a large number of Olive (*Olea europaea*) trees are being planted. O'Brien also stated, as a "postscript," that several young trees had been vandalised in Hindmarsh and Light Squares "by some mischievous persons" resulting in repeat plantings being undertaken (Letter from W O'Brien to the Mayor, 19 August 1867; ACC Archives).

What is not discernable in the Townsend Duryea 1865 panorama photograph of the municipality is the fountain that was reputedly positioned in this Square in the middle to late 1800s. It is evident, by the implied graphic representations in the lithographic projections of the municipality published in the *Sydney Illustrated News* July 1876 and the *Australasian Sketcher* 10 July 1875, a fact corroborated in the 1880 Smith Survey of the City of Adelaide, that fountains may have been positioned in the central point in each Square. There has been little factual evidence to substantiate these graphic representations, and the only evidence of a pre-1900 fountain pertains to Hindmarsh Square.

Upon the invitation of Mayor John Colton, City Gardener William O'Brien wrote to the Corporation on 19 August 1874 proposing "a list of Ornamental Trees suitable for planting in the Squares of the City." The list comprised: 2 Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*), 4 Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*), 6 (*Grevillea robusta*), 6 Thuja (species unspecified), 6 White

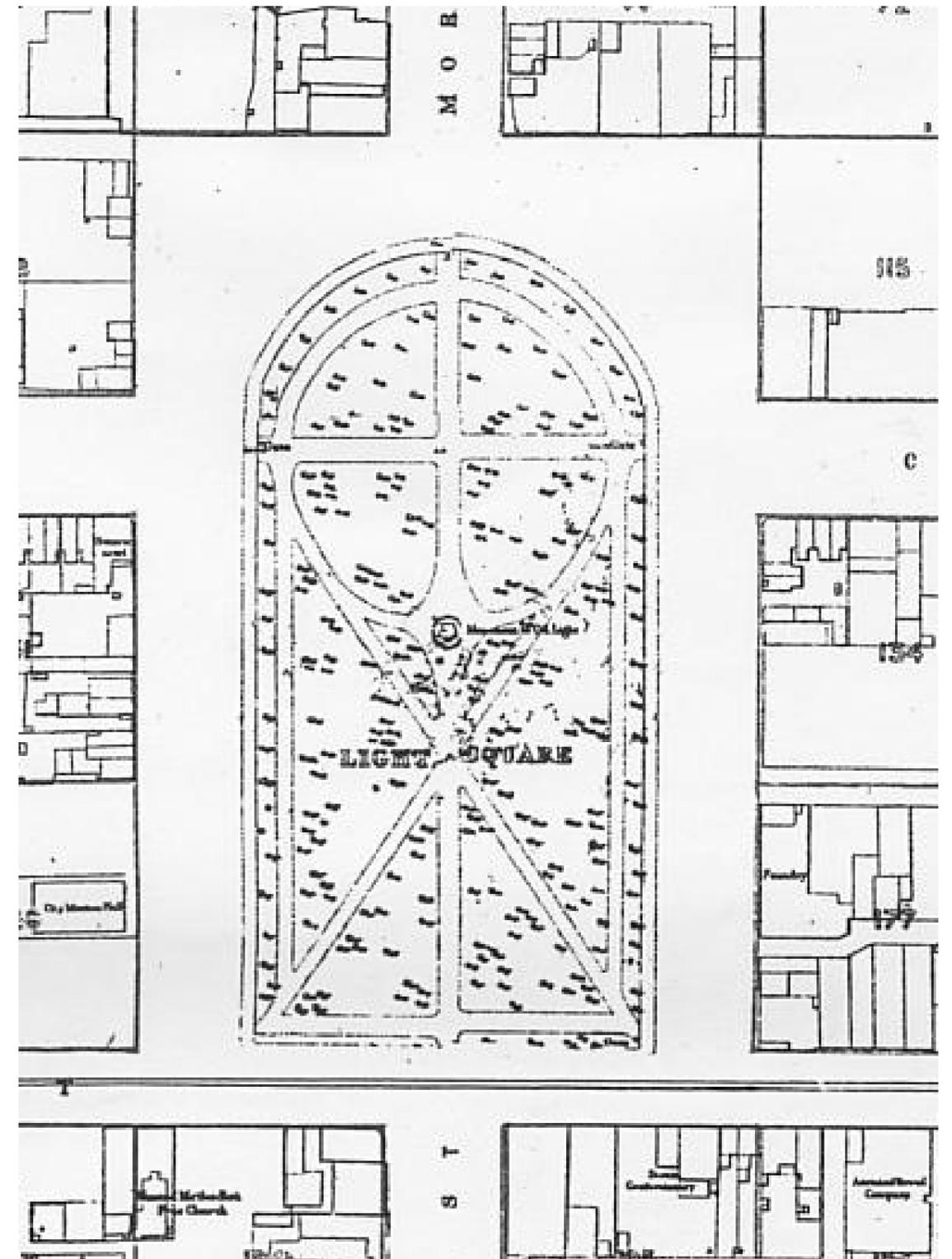
Cedars (*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*), 6 Kurrajongs (*Brachybiton populneus*) and 6 Cassia (*Cassia bicapsularis* syn. *Cassia candolleana*). It is unclear whether Council approved this list, and which Square it pertained to, but is likely that these were planted by O'Brien (Town Clerk's Docket 714 of 1874).



Figure

Extract from a lithographic perspective of Adelaide published in the *Australasian Sketcher* 10 July 1875 depicting an aerial axiometric view of Light Square from the west. Note the extensive tree planting established, evidence of the north-south and east-west pedestrian pathway system as well as cross-axis pathway system both accentuated by tree planting lines. Currie Street roadway has not been carved through the Square at this time and curiously there is an absence of the Light Memorial in this image whereas central features do appear in the other squares in this lithograph, although, the Memorial detail could be obscured by the trees in the lithograph detail. Source: ACC Archives.

The state and condition of extant fencing around the Squares was subject to Corporation deliberations in the late 1870s. Mayor William Bunday consciously sought to remove the “old and decaying split post and rail fences from the City squares” and to erect “substantial and ornamental railings round these enclosures.” Bunday saw it as a major aim of his tenure as Lord Mayor and an important task for “beautifying the city”. The City Surveyor prepared designs for these cast iron ornamental railing fences, with a more elaborate palisading version for Victoria Square as distinct from the other Squares. Tenders were called for both designs and works awarded. Presumably City Gardener Pengilly was faced with removing the old post and rail fencing to enable the contractors to proceed. Mayor [Sir] Edwin Thomas Smith witnessed the erection of the ornamental cast iron palisading but also had to deal with public criticism of Corporation's expenditure of the palisading. His argument was that, “consistent with the end they had in view, a bold but neat palisading which adds so much to the appearance of the Squares, and to the ornamentation of the streets, and saves to the Corporation at least £2,000” was an investment well made. These palisades were erected around all five squares by early 1881 (*Annual Report 1879-80*, p. 82; 1880-81, pp. 110-111; 1881-82, pp. 34-35, 41).



Figure

Extract from Smith's Survey of the City of Adelaide in 1880 that provides a very detailed plan of the layout of Light Square. Note the north-south and east-west main pathway system, the secondary cross-axis pathway system, and the tertiary internal perimeter pathway system. Note the arc-ed pathway system in the northern portion of the Square matching the northern arc-ed shape of the roadway. The Light Memorial is clear in this image. The volume of mature trees in the Square is also evident in this image. Source: ACC Archives.

3.0 ADELAIDE PARK LANDS AND SQUARES

While the debate about palisading was continuing City Gardener Pengilly was busy tree planting in the Squares. During 1881-82 he planted 50 trees in each of Light, Hurtle and Hindmarsh Squares. In 1882-83 he planted an additional 30 trees in Light and Whitmore Squares. Unfortunately the nature of the species is not stated but his purpose was to plant new specimens and to replace “missing” trees (*Annual Report* 1881-82, p. 137; 1882-83, p. 135).

In commissioning John Ednie Brown to prepare a *Report on a System of Planting the Adelaide Park Lands* (1880), under Mayor Bunday, there was no attempt to include the Squares in this investigation. This perhaps indicates the quality of landscape that was extant in the Squares that William O’Brien had established; Pengilly was charged with Squares and garden development and maintenance but also had jurisdiction over the Park Lands (Brown 1880; Plan of City of Adelaide, 11 February 1865, ACC Archives).

With John Ednie Brown’s appointment as ‘Supervisor of the Plantations’, upon the invitation of Mayor Edwin Smith in April 1882, Brown commenced foundational work in implementing parts of the *Report’s* (1880) recommendations. Pengilly was advised that Brown shall have “general supervision of the tree planting in the Park Lands” and to “render Mr. Brown every facility for this purpose ...” (Town Clerk’s Dept Outwards Letter Book, 1882/602/18). A fractious relationship occurred with Brown and Pengilly, and a specific incident over street tree plantings along Barton Terrace West prompted Brown’s resignation from this position in August 1882. While the Corporation sought to remedy the situation, continued disobedience and contrary activities by the City Gardener and his workforce eventually prompted Brown’s formal resignation on 1 June 1883. In his letter of resignation he wrote “I must for the sake of professional reputation, seek to be relieved of the responsibility.” With this decision the Corporation determined to sack Pengilly, and therein had a serious of City Gardeners until such time as August Pelzer (1862-1934) was appointed City Gardener (1899-1934) in mid 1899.

Newly appointed City Gardener Richard Patterson in 1885 reported with “great pleasure” of the improvements effected in the landscapes of the Squares. He also recorded that he had installed numerous “openings” in the palisades “to allow persons in charge of perambulators getting these vehicles into the Squares.” Despite this “some ill-disposed person or persons” caused considerable vandalism to the palisades in all the Squares over the 1885 Christmas holidays. Newly appointed City Gardener John W Hayes in 1886 reported on these acts of vandalism and that the gardens and trees in the Squares were also “in very good order” (*Annual Report* 1883-84, p. 50; 1885-86, pp. 48, 111-112).

Under Patterson and Hayes several minor landscape works were effected in each Square in the 1880s. Several “moribund cypress trees” were removed from Light Square to enable better growth of adjacent trees. In 1895 Hayes reported that all the Squares “are looking very well; but all the paths should be bordered with bricks on edge to maintain the regular width of the paths and keep the public from destroying the borders” (*Annual Report* 1887-88, p. 41; 1889-1890, p. 77; 1894-95, p. 64).

In February 1886 Villanis provided an inventory to the Corporation of “the number of olive [*Olea europaea*] trees presently bearing fruit in the Town Corporation ground,” (note ‘fruit bearing and not a total list of trees overall) excluding the Gaol enclosures:

| <u>Location</u> | <u>Number of trees bearing fruit</u> | <u>Present Park</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Mann Terrace</i> | 27 | 7 & 8 |
| <i>Brougham Place</i> | 29 | Brougham, 29 |
| <i>Palmer Place</i> | 5 | Palmer, 28 |
| <i>Wellington Square</i> | 19 | Wellington |
| <i>Torrens Lake</i> | 119 | 26 |

| | | |
|--|------------|--------------|
| <i>Strangways Terrace</i> | 7 | 1 |
| <i>Mitcham Road [Unley Road]</i> | 84 | 19 & 20 |
| <i>Plantation bordering the Old Race Course</i> | 272 | 15 |
| <i>South East Park Lands (Old Race Course)</i> | 105 | 16 |
| <i>Dequetteville Park</i> | 30 | 14 |
| <i>East Park Lands (between Old Race Course and North Terrace)</i> | 26 | 13 |
| <i>Hindmarsh Square</i> | 8 | Hindmarsh |
| <i>Light Square</i> | 14 | Light |
| <i>Whitmore Square</i> | 6 | Whitmore |
| <i>West Terrace</i> | 112 | 22, 23, & 24 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>873</u> | |

(Letter, Paolo Villanis to Town Clerk, 22 February 1886, TC 1886/465)

In January 1892 a public meeting, chaired by Mayor Charles Willcox, was held in the Corporation’s Town Hall to discuss a proposal to erect a statue in memory of Colonel William Light. The Corporation voted £500 to this proposal and numerous people and organisations also contributed, including the state Governor, Sir Henry Ayers, Sir Samuel Way, John H Angas, Sir Edwin Thomas Smith, the South Australia Company, J Fisher, WH Gray, Alderman Hagedorn, A Waterhouse and various unnamed others together with a colonial Parliament donation of £1,000. Architect D Garlick recorded that the “original monument built over the grave of Col. Light in Light Square ... was fast crumbling away and could not last much longer.” The damage was being caused by “salt-damp” and air impacting upon the soft stone. Accordingly a representative Committee called for expressions of interest from sculptors to craft a “portrait statue, eight feet [2.4m] in height, in the regimental uniform of a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Royal Engineers, either in bronze or marble.” Thus started the Light Statue project that saw the statue eventually erected in Tarndanyangga/Victoria Square before it was re-erected on Light’s Vision on Montefiore Hill in 1936 (*Annual Report* 18891-92, p. 12; 1894-95, pp. 28-29, 66).

The matter of a suitable statue honouring Colonel Light arose in Corporation debates in 1902 but with the lack of available funds the matter was deferred. In 1903 the Corporation re-confirmed its commitment to the project as also the past guarantee of £1,000 from the state Government. In the following year the Corporation again re-affirmed its commitment to the project but this time proposed that the statue be positioned in King William Road at the intersection of Flinders and Franklin Street, and not on top of Light’s grave in Light Square as originally envisaged. The newly constituted Committee, including Superintendent of Public Buildings Charles Edward Owen Smyth, Sir Edwin Thomas Smith, Under Secretary LH Sholl, RK Thomas, and the Master of the School of Design, HP Gill, wasted no time with the task calling for designs for both the statue and a new grave memorial and received nine proposals for the statue and 13 for the memorial. The commission for a bronze statue, 2.7m high, was awarded to Scottish sculptor W Birnie Rhind of Edinburgh for a tender of £1,000, and architects Messrs Garlick Silbley & Wooldridge were responsible for the pedestal at a cost of £510. The Committee expected the statue to be unveiled in early 1906 with an inscription on the pedestal reading “Colonel William Light first surveyor general, fixed the site and laid out the city of Adelaide in 1836. Erected by citizens 1906.” The statue was unveiled by the state Governor Le Hunte on 27 November 1906 (*Annual Report* 1902, p. 13; 1903, p. 11; 1904, p. 13; 1905, p. 7; 1907, p. 15; Cameron 1997, pp. 47-53).

By 1894 the Kingston-designed monument to Light in Light’s Square had become “so dilapidated and dangerous” that the Corporation removed a portion of the structure to prevent its falling on passersby. The Attorney-General stated in reply to a question in colonial parliament that:

“Is it the intention of the Government to have the wreck of Colonel Light’s Monument removed, and in place of it have a monument erected worthy of the man and his works for South Australia,” and “The Government regret that they are unable to propose any provision on the subject at present” (Annual Report 1894-95, pp. 28-29).

The cause for the deterioration of the monument was salt damp. By the 1895 the monument was in such a condition that the cross atop the spire was found to be detached and severely cracked. The top portion was recommended to be removed by the City Surveyor (*Annual Report 1894-95, p. 66*).

Behind these snippets was a progressive deterioration of the quality and management of the gardens in the Squares. This was brought to a head in 1897 when the Corporation established a Special Committee to inquire into the “whole working and management of the squares.” Following a series of meetings and site inspections to all squares, the Corporation determined a set of “drastic alterations” including tree removal works to be undertaken. Some 25 trees from Light Square were removed on the basis that the trees were either “dead, dying, or unsightly.” The Corporation also determined that proper arboricultural treatment was required of all trees in the Squares and that a gardener be specifically placed in charge of each Square reporting directly to the City Surveyor. Under this policy change the Corporation witnessed a change in the landscape quality of the Squares. At the same time the Corporation determined to establish a Parks & Gardens Department, appoint an experienced and qualified City Gardener, establish a tree nursery in Tuyla Wodli/Park 27, and establish a “permanent Tree Planting Committee” under the Chair of Councillor William Ponder (*Annual Report 1897-98, pp. 73-74*).

A key to the success of these policy changes was the appointment of August Wilhelm Pelzer in mid 1899 to the position of City Gardener. It was a position that he held until 1932. A secondary key was the role of “indefatigable” Ponder who extensively enabled the actions and visions of Pelzer to be implemented enabling funding and political support within the Corporation. Ponder was passionate about trees and tree planting, and undertook research on tree planting activities of various cities around the world including Washington DC, Paris, Cleveland, Sydney, etc. (*Annual Report 1898-99, pp. 22-23*).

Pelzer immediately set to work renourishing the Squares, and re-seeded the lawns with couch grass (*Annual Report 1898-99, pp. 149, 150*).

Clearly the immediate works Pelzer set upon were strategic aesthetic improvements to the lawns, flower beds and trees of each Square, and also measures to delimit inappropriate human activities in the Squares. He extended the spread of couch grass lawns in all Squares, and proposed the erection of hoops in Light Square “in order to break ... the habit of making these tracks.” These hoops were erected in 1901. His conclusion was that he supported any Corporation engineering action that introduced “intersecting roads” to the Squares as it would “cause much of the pedestrian traffic to be diverted from the Square.” In terms of trees, he recorded his view that “all the Squares were overcrowded with trees” and that an urgent program of thinning and grubbing was needed to enable adequate light and air to the remaining trees and also enable good growth in the lawns. Species that heightened this problem were Pines (*Pinus* ssp), Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*), and Pepper Trees (*Schinus aerea* var *molle*). These tree species were grubbed and lopped in Light Square. Taking advantage of a donation of 100 Cotton Palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) from parliamentarian and philanthropist George Brookman in early 1900, sourced from Henry Sewell’s Payneham Nursery, Pelzer scattered these specimens in various Squares and reserves and then had to erect 1.5m high tree guards around them due to vandalism. He also planted new shrubs on the pathway routes to the toilets in Light Square (*Annual Reports 1899-1900, pp. 292-294; 1901, pp. 9, 41*).

Despite measures to remove trees Pelzer also started planting new trees. In Light Square in 1902 he planted 4 Oriental Planes (*Platanus orientalis*), 2 English Elms (*Ulmus procera*), and 2 False Acacias (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) together with 4 aberias, 3 Oleanders (*Nerium oleander*) and 1 *Berberis* ssp. And in the flower beds were “Gaillardias, Petunias, Phlox, Zinnias, Stocks, Sunflowers, Cosmos, Allysums, Snapdragons, Pansies, Geraniums, Canna Centaurians, and Roses.” Two more unidentified trees were planted in 1903 (*Annual Report 1902, p. 30; 1903, pp. 24, 44*).

In addition, the irregular movement of people across the lawns in the Squares caused Mayor Alexander Ware and Pelzer considerable angst as it characterised many of their regular reports to the Corporation (*Annual Reports 1899-1900, pp. 292-294; 1901, pp. 9, 41; 1902, p. 29*).

A significant management issue in all Squares was dogs. The Corporation had become frustrated in finding measures of preventing dogs entering the Squares and fouling the flower beds. Mayor Ware observed that “the damage done by the ill-bred mongrel is quite equalled by that of the aristocratic canine; in both cases it is very discouraging both to the gardener and his men.” In 1900 Pelzer proposed an extensive fencing program that involved wire netting fixed on iron railings supported on jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) battens with self-closing swing gates. He provided costings for these works. All Squares were fenced by the end of 1901. Pelzer painted the fencing in 1902 (*Annual Report 1899-1900, pp. 106-107; 1901, pp. 9, 16; 1902, p. 20*).

One of Pelzer’s first actions was also to review the existing regulation system applicable to the Squares and Park Lands. In 1900 he proposed to the Corporation, which they adopted, a revised and co-ordinate set of bylaws to enable the policing of the public. This was the first major review of these regulations and provided the foundation of the current version of bylaws. Signage advising these new by-laws was erected in 1901 (*Annual Report 1899-1900, pp. 109-110; 1901, p. 44*).

Mayor Edwin Smith also accompanied Pelzer “at least once a week” in 1900-1901 inspecting all the Gardens and reserves and reviewing the Departmental staff capabilities. This was quite a commitment of time by a Mayor. His conclusion was that:

... I can honestly bear out his [Pelzer’s] remarks that his staff has worked well during the year, and has been kept fully employed. The staff is now composed of a capable lot of men, and I am satisfied with the “weeding out” process which I undertook some two years ago. I have also caused the men to be shifted about occasionally, a process which has been found wholesome, and a corrective to any possible symptoms of stagnation.

In the City Gardener, Mr Pelzer, I am convinced that the Council possesses a very capable officer, who takes an abiding interest in his work (Annual Report 1901, p. 9).

Finally in 1904 the Corporation proceeded with works to erect a new statue to Colonel Light in Light’s Square. The statue was unveiled on 21 June 1905 by Lieutenant-Governor Sir Samuel Way, and replaced an earlier obelisk. HJ Jackman was the designer and JJ Leahy was the contractor. Pelzer also established two flower beds, filled with “various shrubs, cannas, and other herbaceous plants” numbering 10, surrounding the new statue. In 1916 he re-graded and re-surfaced the ground around the statue with “metal screenings” (Vivienne 1908, p. 4; *Annual Report 1905, pp. 7, 53, 54; 1916, p. 42*).

In the same period the Corporation’s attention also turned to the provision of children’s playgrounds. It was a topic that occupied the Corporation’s reports for the next 10 years as various playground proposals were discussed, debated, and Mayor Charles Glover started donating funds to permit the construction of such facilities. Pelzer was involved in these proposals as he had to design and playgrounds as well construct and plant the spaces. Alderman

(later Mayor) Isaac Isaacs first raised the topic in the Corporation's Chambers on 13 January 1908 wherein it was carried:

That this Council take into consideration the advisableness of reserving portions of Hindmarsh, Hurtle, Whitmore, Light, and Wellington Squares and Plantations for Children's Playgrounds, and provide the same with swings and other appliances for recreative purposes, and with that end in view the Town Clerk submit a report on Children's Playgrounds to the Parks and Gardens Committee, having special reference to the provision made in Melbourne and Sydney, and as to the establishments in America, England, and the Continent of Europe (Annual Report 1908, p. 20).

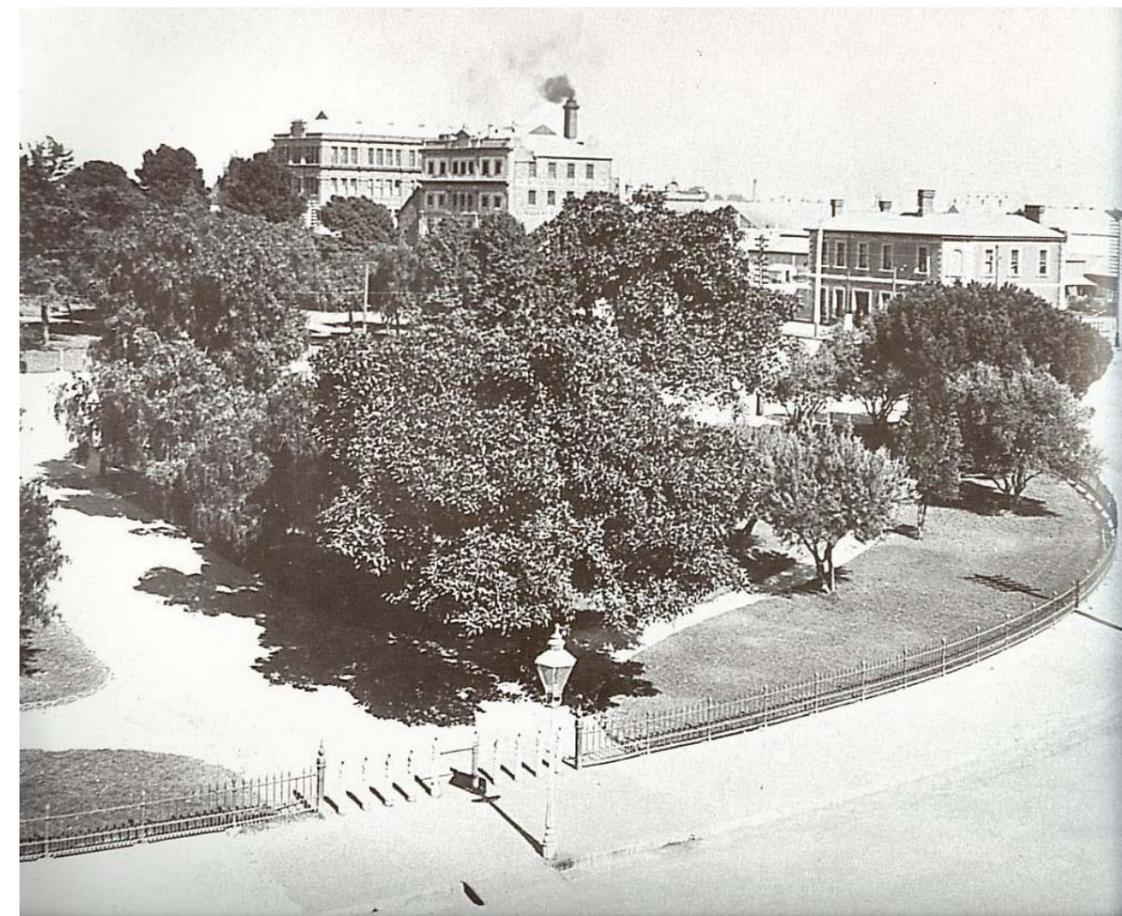
While the Town Clerk prepared and submitted a report, the Corporation eventually proposed the location of playgrounds in the surrounding park lands and not in the Squares (*Annual Report 1909*, p. 49; 1910 p. 37; 1912, pp. 64-65; 1914, p. 71).

At the same time the Corporation was dealing with the installation of tramways through the municipality. Because of the laying of electric-car tracks, the Squares would have to be remodelled and the Corporation viewed that the Municipal Tramways Trust (MTT) should contribute to "pay a fair proportion" of the costs. Light Square was modified with the tramway works cutting a new east-west route along the present Currie Street alignment (*Annual Report 1908*, p. 21; 1909, pp. 47-48). Interestingly, Mayor Frank Johnson also stated, perhaps seeking advice from Pelzer, that:

The lawns in all the Squares require re-planting, and it would be good policy to have them laid out afresh. The garden plans in Whitmore, Light, Victoria, and Wellington Squares are antiquated and should be remodelled (Annual Report 1908, p. 21).

The suggestion that the Squares needed to experience extensive remodelling more likely came from Pelzer given his standing and expertise in the Corporation, and his desire to re-create the Squares subtly expressed in his reports. But there was also impetus from the volume of use of the Squares. During 1909 the Corporation undertook user surveys of the Squares recording users on weekdays and weekends. For Light Square, an average of 5,000 to 12,000 adults were recorded per month, and some 1,500 to 3,500 children per month (*Annual Report 1909*, pp. 45-46).

During 1910 a roadway was cut through the northern portion of Light Square establishing the present Currie Street route. The works included the removal of an existing African Boxthorn (*Lycium ferrocissum*) hedge and the planting of a new Kaffir Apple (*Dovyalis caffra*) hedge on both sides of the new roadway Currie Street. Part of this renovation occurred with the excision of part of the Square lawns for a new roadway, and the relocation of couch grass and a palm tree (probably a *Phoenix canariensis*) to Kingston Gardens. In 1912 five "stunted white cedar trees" (*Melia azedarach* var *australasica*) were removed and replaced with five False Acacias (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) (*Annual Report 1910*, p. 51; 1911, p. 64; 1912, p. 98).



Figure

A photograph of the northern portion of Light Square taken in 1911. The photograph was taken after the construction of Currie Street through the Square in 1910. Note the existing Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) specimen, the cast iron palisading fencing with pedestrian entrance bollards surrounding the northern flank of the Square, the gravel pathways, and the Victorian colonial lamp standard. Source: SLSA B4374, reproduced in Moreton 1996, p. 144.

In April 1913 Alderman (later Mayor) Lewis Cohen first proposed the removal of all iron palisading fencing around the Squares and Gardens in the City requesting Mayor [Sir] John Lavington Bonython to consider what options were viable. Mayor Bonython replied, noting that the municipality's streets were still being used as stock routes for sheep and cattle, but also his sympathy with the aesthetic rationale behind the question, that:

1. *The removal of the fences round Victoria, Hindmarsh, Hurtle, Whitmore, Light and Wellington Squares could not be considered at the present time on account of the large number of persons who kept cows within the City. ...*
2. *The removal of the fences round the above-named Squares was not within the bounds of practical politics at the present time, for the further reason that sheep were driven from the North Terrace Markets every week to the butchers' shops throughout the City and Suburbs, and if the fences were removed while such sheep-driving continued, the lawns inside the Squares would be ruined.*
3. *The same remarks, applied to the fences round the Reserves on North Terrace and the North Terrace Gardens generally. ...*
5. *The light palisading fences round the flower beds in the centre of Victoria Square were put there designedly about fourteen years ago; prior to that time the flower beds were trampled upon and ruined.*

6. Last year the Town Clerk made an experiment by removing a small portion of the fencing round the North Terrace Gardens between the University Grounds and the Jubilee Exhibition Ground. The experiment proved to be disastrous, as within three months the lawn was practically ruined by persons making short cuts across it, and the Town Clerk had to have the fence replaced.
7. When the Abbatoirs were open, and the new Stock Markets at Gepp's Cross, it would be possible to remove the fencing round Victoria Square, because that locality was less affected by wandering cows, but if this should be done in the near future, it would most certainly entail the Council in heavy cost for dwarf walls to protect the outer edges of the lawns. The cost would run into approximately £1,500 at least (*Annual Report 1913*, pp. 53-54).

In conclusion Mayor Bonython recorded that "he was quite in accord ... " with Cohen "from the aesthetic appearance of the Squares ... yet he was constrained to counsel caution in a policy which would be costly and might lead to disaster in the Gardens which were such a source of pride to the citizens and delight to visitors." With this policy determination, the matter of the removal of the palisading did not re-surface until the late 1920s under Lord Mayor Cohen's own administration (*Annual Report 1913*, pp. 53-55).

Notwithstanding the debate about the palisade fencing Pelzer continued renovation works to Light Square. In 1913 he removed a "large decayed" pine (*Pinus* ssp) tree and extensively pollarded the "large overgrown pepper" (*Schinus aeria* var *molle*) trees in the Square. In 1921 a new tool shed was erected in the Square (*Annual Report 1913*, p. 62; 1921, p. 37).

In 1922 Pelzer drew an overview of the condition of the Squares generally noting that they were "well maintained" but still room for improvement if not remodelling. His concerns were with the style of the design, the "large, unsightly Pine (*Pinus* ssp), Pepper (*Schinus aeria* var *molle*), Lagunaria (*Lagunaria patersonii*), Moreton Bay trees (*Ficus macrophylla*) trees, etc.," that characterised the Squares and which were now "totally unfit for City Squares." Pelzer's desire was for large scale renovations, pointing the success of the mass removal of Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*) trees in Victoria and Pine (*Pinus* ssp) and Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*) in Wellington Squares that had "very much improved" the Squares. This argument was again re-stated by Pelzer in his 1927 *Annual Report* to the Corporation wherein he pointed to the "great number of ill-shaped, stunted trees," particularly in Light and Whitmore Squares, the need for palisade fence removal, and Square remodelling (*Annual Report 1922*, p. 26; 1927, p. 29).



Figure
Photograph of the Light Memorial and Light Square in 1928. Note the absence of the present water feature surrounding the Memorial, the flagpole to the left (north-east) of the Memorial, and the dense but open Gardenesque style of mature tree planting in the Square. Source: City of Adelaide 1928, np.

In 1928 the Corporation considered and approved proposals for a remodelling of Light Square submitted by Pelzer, and proposed to execute the works in the next budget. The works included widening Waymouth Street from 12.8m to 22.86m with new bitumen paving; the removal and sale of the palisade railings and fencing; the construction of new kerbing around the Square; removal and relocation of the tool-house; and, complete remodelling of the south-western portion of the Square by the construction of new diagonal paths, replacement of the existing north-south pathway with lawn, and replacement of the present eastern and western side pathways with lawn. The works also included the removal of a women's toilet, then located in the southern portion of the Square, and the felling of a "number of overgrown, stunted, and ill-shaped trees." With these works two rows of 21 Box-elder Maple (*Acer negundo*) were planted along the central paths in the Square, with two large flower beds at the intersection of the pathways. At the southern end of the Square, a row of white painted cast-iron posts were erected to "Guard vehicular traffic off the reserve" (*Annual Report 1928*, pp. 28, 44; 1929, pp. 34, 36).

On 29 February 1932 Pelzer retired and the Corporation commenced a reorganisation of the City Gardener's Branch (*Annual Report 1931-32*, p. 27). Following Pelzer's retirement a sequence of gardeners and a change of commitment to the gardens and the Park Lands is evident throughout Adelaide notwithstanding the Centenary of South Australia celebrations in 1936 (*Annual Report 1935-36*, p. 37). On 15 April 1935 the Corporation appointed A Stanley Orchard FRHS to replace Pelzer to the re-titled and relegated position as 'Curator of Parks & Gardens'. Orchard brought to the position "theoretical and practical training and experience in England," with varied work experience in New South Wales in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney, and

Victoria. Orchard passed away suddenly on 15 March 1939 (*Annual Report 1933-34*, p. 33; 1938-39, p. 8).

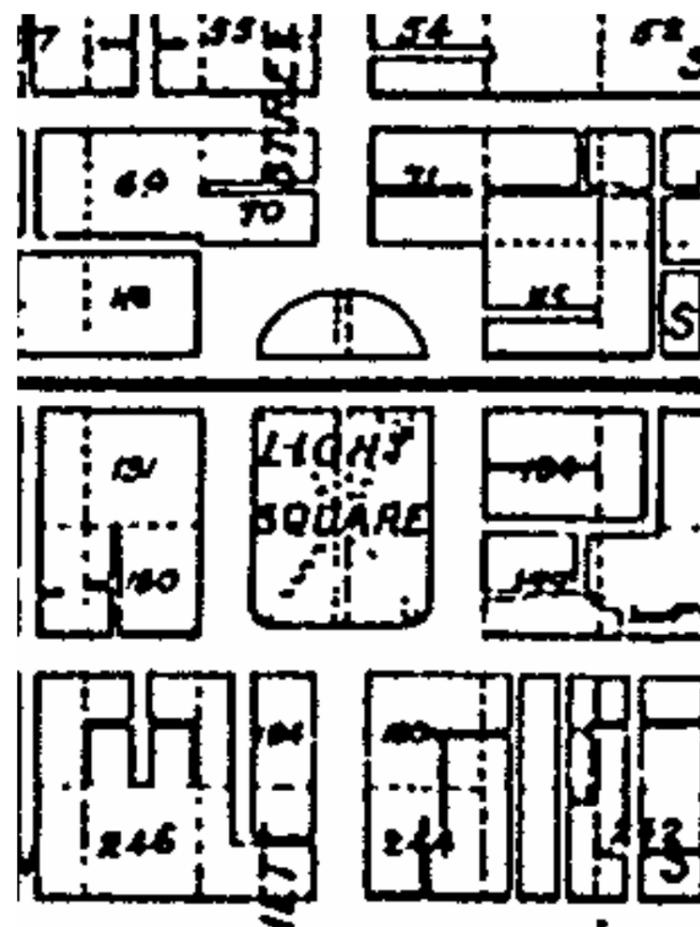


Figure
Extract of a *Plan Showing Improved Pavements* in the City of Adelaide as prepared by the City Engineer dated 14 November 1927 that depicts the configuration of Light Square with electric tram lines running east-west through the Square along the present Currie Street alignment. Note the extant pedestrian system that accords with previous plans. Source: ACC Archives.



Figure
Extract of a 1936 aerial photograph of metropolitan Adelaide illustrating the scope of mature tree cover in Light Square, the tramline and the very evident formal north-south and cross-axial pathway systems. The pedestrian circulation system within the Square is only partially obscured by the tree canopies. The Light Memorial is positioned within the central north-south lawn with no surrounding paved podium, whereas there is a paved feature plaza where the north-west to south-east and north-east to south-west pedestrian pathway routes intersect – a design feature that City Gardener Benjamin Bone later removed. Source: University of Adelaide.

Near the end of the Second World War, in late 1944, Alderman (later Lord Mayor) John McLeay turned the Corporation's attention to the quality of its Squares. The funds expended on the Squares had dwindled, many of the trees planted in the 1860s-70s and in the 1880s-1930s were aging or in poor quality, and much of the Squares had been appropriated for air raid construction and training purposes. McLeay recharged the Parks & Gardens Committee and undertook a tour of all the Squares with City Gardener Benjamin Bone. In terms of Light Square the Committee recommended:

- Remove all trees in Square.
- Plan of Light Square submitted herewith showing proposed rehabilitation of the Square.
- It will be noted that recommendations regarding Hindmarsh and Light Squares are unanimous ... (ACC Minutes of Parks & Gardens Committee, 17 November 1944).

Bone was regularly influenced by the policy directions of the Parks & Gardens Committee. In April 1952 the Committee reviewed the Square, on site, and concluded that “several of the existing trees are past their maturity and many should be removed ...” (ACC Parks & Gardens Committee Minutes 17 April 1952). Again, in early 1953 the Committee undertook an on-site tour of each of the Square forming several recommendations as to tree, garden and lawn works.

Little Corporation action was however entertained on these landscape works until 1952 when City Gardener Benjamin Bone re-proposed renovations to the Square. Bone proposed three different schemes of which Scheme 1 was recommended and approved by the Corporation. This first scheme involved the retention of existing trees in the Square and the planting of a central avenue of 18 trees running north-south through the Square. In addition some six garden beds were proposed, “to grow annuals in season,” in the centre of the Square with a circular bed around the Light Memorial. Bone costed these works, including water service replacement and jarrah (*Eucalyptus marginata*) edgings, at £1,050. His recommendations for the central avenue tree included Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra* ‘Italica’), Athol Tree (*Tamarix aphylla*), Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneus*), Arizona Cypress (*Cupressus arizonica*), and Juniperus *hibernica* (syn Irish Juniper, *Juniperus communis* ‘Hibernica’) or *Juniperus africanus* (syn *Juniperus chinensis* ‘Pyramidalis’), expressing his preference to the Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra* ‘Italica’). In terms of additional tree planting in the Square, Bone proposed the following species: Pink Kurrajong (*Brachychiton* x *populneo-acerifolius*), Golden Cypress (*Cupressus brunniana* ‘Aurea’), Camphor Laurel (*Camphora cinnamomum*), Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*), Irish Strawberry (*Arbutus unedo*), and Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*) (ACC Parks & Gardens committee Item 2, 24 June 1952).

These recommendations, for tree planting works and tree species selection, were clearly approved by the Corporation as Corporation Gardens Foreman, JH Alexander, reported the planting of several trees in the Square in September of that year. These works, apart from the Italian Poplar (*Populus nigra* ‘Italica’) avenue, consisted of 6 Ash (*Fraxinus* ssp), 3 Irish Strawberry (*Arbutus unedo*), 4 Pink Kurrajong (*Brachychiton* x *populneo-acerifolius*), 6 Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*), 4 Camphor Laurels (*Camphora cinnamomum*), 3 White Poplars (*Populus alba*), 2 Athol Trees (*Tamarix aphylla*), 2 Indian Coral (*Erythrina indica*), 4 Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), 3 Carob (*Ceratonia siliqua*), 2 Golden Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa* ‘Aurea’), and 2 Hill’s Fig (*Ficus microcarpa* var *billii*) (ACC Archive, memorandum, JH Alexander to Lord Mayor, 17 September 1952).

An interesting conclusion from these proposals is what tree preference Bone considered relevant and appropriate to the Squares in the early 1950s. He continued the use of Italian (*Populus nigra* ‘Italica’) and White Poplars (*Populus alba*), and was using an interesting spectrum of Camphor Laurel (*Camphora cinnamomum*), Iris Strawberry (*Arbutus unedo*), and Hill’s Fig (*Ficus microcarpa* var *billii*). The poplars were fashionable in the 1920s-40s in Adelaide, the Laurel and Strawberry in the 1930s also, and the Strawberry (*Arbutus unedo*) and Fig (*Ficus microcarpa* var *billii*) were popular in the 1860s and 1880s-90s. Both the Coral (*Erythrina indica*) and Athol (*Tamarix aphylla*) were fashionable in the 1930s-40s whereas the Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) has been used somewhat intermittently since the 1870s. Accordingly, Bone’s preferences lie not in period tree fashions in Adelaide but rather in what he had obviously observed worked well in the Adelaide soil and environmental conditions.

As part of these works, Bone makes little mention of the tree removal works to enable these plantings and remodelling proceed. This list makes for interesting reading as it indicates what species Pelzer had planted in the Square in the 1890s-1930s. Why they were removed is not stated but it may be a mixture of reasons: age, health, disruption to avenue in design, disruption to new water service works, etc. The information is contained in a tender offer by V Coleman to remove the trees at a cost of £220. The specimens include 9 Pepper Trees (*Schinus aerea* var *molle*), 3 Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*), 1 River Sheoak (*Allocasuarina cunninghamian*), 5 Olive (*Olea europaea*) trees, 1 English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), 1 White Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), 8 Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*), 1 Cypress (*Cupressus* ssp), and 4 Box Elders (*Acer negundo*); some 37 trees. It would appear that this was an extensive tree felling and grubbing contract as the only trees left in the Square after these works, as compiled in an inventory of 92 trees by Bone, comprised 25 Southern Nettle Trees (*Celtis australis*), 12 Pepper Tree (*Schinus aerea* var *molle*), 1 Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonii*), 3 River Sheoak (*Allocasuarina cunninghamian*), 2 Moreton Bay Figs (*Ficus macrophylla*), 7 Olive trees (*Olea europaea*), 4 White Kurrajongs (*Brachychiton populneus*), and 1 White Acacia (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) (ACC Archive, File 888/52, Report by Bone; Letter Town Clerk to V Coleman, 27 May 1952).

The *City of Adelaide Heritage Study* (1981) recommended, following an extensive assessment of the built heritage and landscape heritage of the City, that Victoria, Light and Wellington Squares be registered on the South Australian Heritage Register. At this time only Victoria Square was recognised, having been listed on the Register of the National Estate. However, no registrations on the South Australian Heritage Register have occurred (Russell 1992, p. 6).

During the mid 1980s Light Square experienced a landscape renovation necessitating the removal of several elderly trees, planting of several new side flank avenues of trees, and a rationalisation of the pathway system. A bronze plaque was unveiled by Lord Mayor James Jarvis on 19 October 1986 recording this re-design of the landscape of Light Square in the mid 1980s by the Corporation.

In 1986 artist Ieva Pocius was commissioned by the Women’s Executive Committee of the Jubilee 150 Board and the Corporation to design and erect an installation commemorating *Catherine Helen Spence* in the Square. The life-size bronze sculpture, carrying the inscription ‘Catherine Helen Spence 1825-1910 social and political reformer, writer and preacher who worked for children’, dressed in severe Victorian costume, was positioned in the south-western corner of the Square. It was unveiled on 10 March 1986 by Queen Elizabeth II (Cameron 1997, pp. 145-149).

In 2003, a set of 7 black granite sculpture pieces entitled ‘The Eternal Question’, commissioned for the Adelaide Festival in 1986, by way of a gift from Barbara and William F Stewart through the Art Gallery of South Australia Foundation in 1984, was sited in Light Square on loan to the Corporation from the Art Gallery of South Australia. The artist was Richard Kelly Tipping (b.1949).

Amery (1997, p. 4; 2002, p. 270) proposed the toponym *Ityamaiipinna*, ‘King Rodney’, for the Square to honour the Kaurna elder. The name means *ityamaii*, ‘name of student at Piltawodli’ and *itpinna*, ‘father of’. The Corporation considered this proposal in 2000 but indicated a preference towards the name *Wauve* for the Square. *Wauve* honours *Kadlitpinna*’s, or ‘Captain Jack’s’, wife *Wauve* which means female kangaroo. *Ityamaiipinna* was subsequently adopted for *Ityamaiipinna/Park 15* (Amery & Williams 2002, p. 272; Draper *et al* 2005, pp. 47, 95).