Sites of Interest

1. **Oval, "Centenary Park"** opened in **1937** by Sir Winston Dugan. The land was gifted to the town and is still community owned and managed. The floodlit Oval complex is for hire and has a pavillion, toilets, courts and playground. Contact: (08) 8389 4359.
2. **Site of the Bark Mill c1900**, and later **Saw Mill**. The Saw Mill was later demolished in the late 1980s and replaced by private houses.
3. House: **"Rose Cottage" c1850**
7. House: **"Craill's Cottage" c1860**
15. House: **"Tuck's Cottage" 1861**. First owner E. S. Tuck.
20. **Mt Torrens Primary School 1922.** Currently a "Reception to Year 7" school. Contact: (08) 8389 4278.
29. **Stone Bridge** constructed in **1860** by the Central Roads Board when Townsend Street was surveyed past the new Hotel and the Post Office. See Plaque F
37. House: **c1920**. Built for Frances Newmann.
38. **Public Cemetery**: Earliest gravestone, Mary Gillard – August 1863. The cemetery is set in two clearings in a pine forest on a hillside east of the town.
39. House: **"Royston Cottage" c1855**. The first owner was R. Townsend.

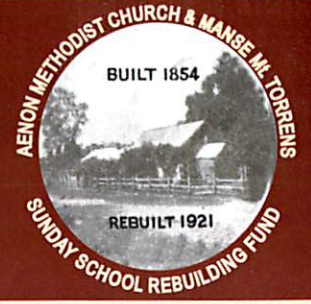
Wattle Bark Stripping

Wagon load of wattle bark in front of warehouse - c. 1905

Some of the best wattle bark in South Australia was grown at Mt. Torrens. For many years tons of bark was stripped and transported to Adelaide by horse and wagon. The bark was used for tanning leather.
The wattle bark industry diminished when dairying became more intensive. A saw mill operated on same site until late in the 20th Century.

Wattle bark stack ready for shipment - c. 1905

Record at Mount Torrens



The tiny two-teacher school at Mount Torrens established a Commonwealth record in 1912 which still stands unbeaten.

From 1860 until 1912, the school had only two head-teachers: Mr. Edward Starkey Tuck, 1860-1877, and his daughter Sophia Tuck, 1877-1912.

Between them, they must have laid firm foundations for the school, for it boasts many distinguished "old scholars" including Lady Playford; artist Marie Tuck; Hermann Brauer, Professor of Languages, Wisconsin University; Dr. Don Sumner, Rhodes Scholar; Nelly H. Woods, Master of Arts and Tate Medallist; and Joyce Sumner, Elder Scholarship.

Fascinating Links with Art

Marie Anne Tuck (1877 – 1947) a daughter of E.S. Tuck was born in Mount Torrens; she was a distinguished painter and teacher. Marie studied in Paris and she idolized her mentor **Rupert Bunny**, she paid for her lessons by cleaning his studio, fuelling the stoves, and sweeping snow from the door.

Marie was the first **Australian woman artist** to gain a distinction at the **Paris Salon** where her work was hung several times.

Marie returned to **Adelaide** after the outbreak of World War 1 and taught life-drawing and painting at the **S.A. School of Arts and Crafts**.

She was a dedicated and inspired teacher, with a sweet voice, she had many devoted students among them Ivor Hele, John Dowie, Jacqueline Hick, Jeffery Smart, Ruth Tuck, Ivor Francis, Dora Chapman, Noel & Rex Wood, Brien Seidel and David Dalwitz.

Her work is in the **Art Galleries of SA, NSW, and NT**, The Queen Adelaide Club, and here in the Mount Torrens Soldiers Memorial Hall.

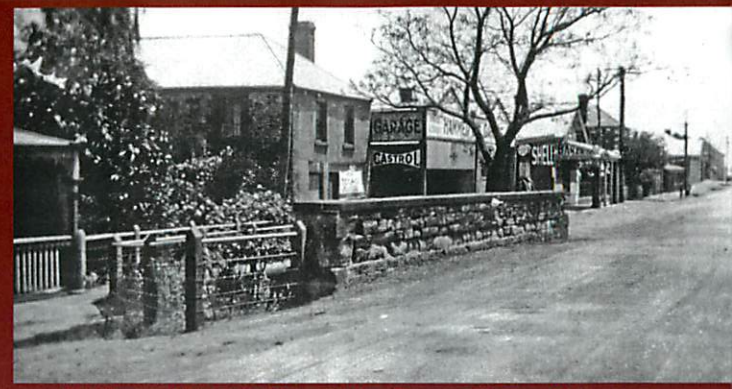
Marie also executed large religious works, including those for Reims Cathedral, France.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- "The Anatomy of Mt. Torrens" 1967 – Gordon Young.
- "Torrens Valley Heritage Survey" 2003 – Gumeracha History Centre. (08) 8389 1462
- "Heritage Walk of Mount Torrens" 2000.
- Photographs from Kym Clark Collection, Nicky Sage and Chris Barry.

The Mt. Torrens & District Community Association in conjunction with Bunyip Print & Copy, Gawler, have produced this first edition brochure - November 2011. We have endeavoured to glean interesting facts and stories about Mt. Torrens, its history and its people. Every effort has been made to authenticate dates and details.

Mount Torrens Heritage Trail



1860 Stonewall Bridge (looking north along Townsend Street. c1946)

Mount Torrens Story

Settlement of the Mount Torrens district was carried out by English and German migrants in the late 1830s and early 1840s.

Among the first English settlers was George Dunn, who in 1837 built a farmhouse, tavern and outbuildings near **Barton Springs**, located mid-way between the Mount and the present township.

This settlement became a stopover point on the bullock track which ran from Adelaide to the Murray River. The tavern became known as the **"Cornish Arms Hotel"**. There was a very small window which opened onto the track through which the Bullockies were handed their mugs of rum after hours – the deeply grooved track must have kept the wagons moving in the right direction!

George Dunn founded the town in 1853 when he subdivided 40 allotments which he named **Mount Torrens**. Additional subdivisions followed; **Dunfield** to the south and **Mount Torrens East** to the east.

About the same time German Lutherans took up land nearby at **Spring Head**, 3 kms to the south, and built farm houses, a church, and a school house.

Mount Torrens grew and prospered as a stopover point and a thriving farming, wattlebark and dairying area.

Gold was discovered near the town in the 1860s and the **Mount Torrens Gold Battery** (cyanide works) was erected in 1894, about 5 kms to the North and operated until 1956.

The Adelaide to Mount Pleasant **railway line** opened in 1918 providing a vital link to Adelaide up until it closed in 1963.

Today Mount Torrens township is much admired for its **architecture** and **historical significance**, so perhaps its future lies in the past?

A considerable area was declared **"State Heritage"** on 5th December 2002, this included the **Adelaide Road Entrance** to the township.

Mount Torrens & District Community Association
Telephone (08) 8389 4388 • PO Box 701 Mount Torrens SA 5244

Mount Torrens Heritage Trail

House: former tavern "Mill Inn". c1859
Also a wine store & residence with a ballroom and stables at the rear. Note the wine shop door on the left and the house door on the right.

House: "James' Cottage". c1868
Built by John Westmorland, a labourer. He was appointed curator of the Cemetery in 1867. The James family lived here 1899 - 1976

House: "May's Cottage". c1860 A
Richard Gillard built this workers cottage with timber lintels. He lived next door 8 until he died 1881. The Clark family owned it 1926-1990s.

House: with Stone Fence. c1854 A
The two-storey dwelling, fence & outbuildings built from local stone by R. Gillard 6 The Bennett, Parson & Klose families lived here.

House: 'Cambridge House' c1855 A
The two-storey house and cottage were owned separately for 90 years. In 1880s an English doctor set up his surgery and residence in the house.

Soldiers Memorial Hall. c1923 A
Built on land donated by the Tuck Family and is still community owned, managed, & enjoyed for meetings & indoor sports. For hire: 8389 4221

House: Former Saddler's Shop. c1850 A
An early surviving cottage. The front room was used as a saddler's shop and the customers were served through the enlarged window.

House: Former Blacksmith's Shop. c1860
Built by E. Boelcke, and used until 1890s as a blacksmith's shop. The flint-stone paving surrounding the forge was traditional in NW Europe.

House: "Marlow Cottage" c1854 B
From 1880, Richard Townsend, a labourer, and eventual owner of the Mill lived here. He bought Townsend House 17 for his son, Dick.

House: "Palm Villa" c1912 E
Built during the dairy industry boom in the early 1900s. The home of the Hammer family who were blacksmiths and wheelwrights.

"Coopers": former Flour Mill c1853 B
Local farmers led by George Dunn built the Flour Mill. R. Townsend bought it in 1880s. AMSCOL operated here 1926-1970s.

House: Former Bakery c1860
J. Brokate built the stone shop and residence. In 1890, Bennett & Heath Bakery started here. It has also been a general store and a house.

Uniting Church. c1888 B
The Bible Christian Church built a second chapel on land donated by E.S. Tuck. Above the door, note the stone tablet relocated from the first chapel demolished in 1920. 16

Mount Torrens Hotel c1850 E
G. Dunn (1803-1877), founder of the town (see front cover) built this hotel to capitalize on the passing trade from Adelaide to the River Murray.

House: former *Methodist* Manse. c1909
Aenon Chapel & Manse 1854 was first community building/ school. (See back page). Demolished 1920 and stone used for the Church Hall. 14

St. George's Anglican Church. c1850
This Church has served the district continuously since 1850. The small cemetery has fine examples of 19th Century gravestones and surrounds.

House: "Townsend House". c1854 B
Built on the old bullock track. A bushranger lived here. His lonely wife put up a sign "To let half a bed". The "bngand" returned overnight. 12

Garage: Former Bike Shop. c1868 F
Built from handmade bricks, used as a carpenter's shop, boot-makers & blacksmiths. 1910-1930 Hammer's Bike Shop & "lock-up" by the hotel.

House: Former shop & dwelling. c1890 B
Bill Sinkinson's grocery shop and residence. In 1890s a two level barn was built at rear. Stone from flour mill 13 was used for the road wall.

House: "Cobbler's Cottage" c1865 F
For 80 years, from 1875 to 1958 the Bartholomew's and many local tradesmen, including bootmakers and harness-makers, worked here.

***House: Former school.* c1861**
First purpose built school. Only 2 Head Teachers over 50 years (see back page). 1922-*1986 as Sinkinson's potato* store, then a residence.

House: Former Shop & Post Office. c1863 E
Two-storey section built as a shop & residence. P. Mullins, added the residential wing (right). Elizabeth, his widow, ran the P.O/shop 1903-1924.

The "Coach House" c1860 C
Attached to a 1860s house. Built by George Dunn as outbuildings 22 and used as a staging post. Then as Hicks' Butchery 1864 – 1971.

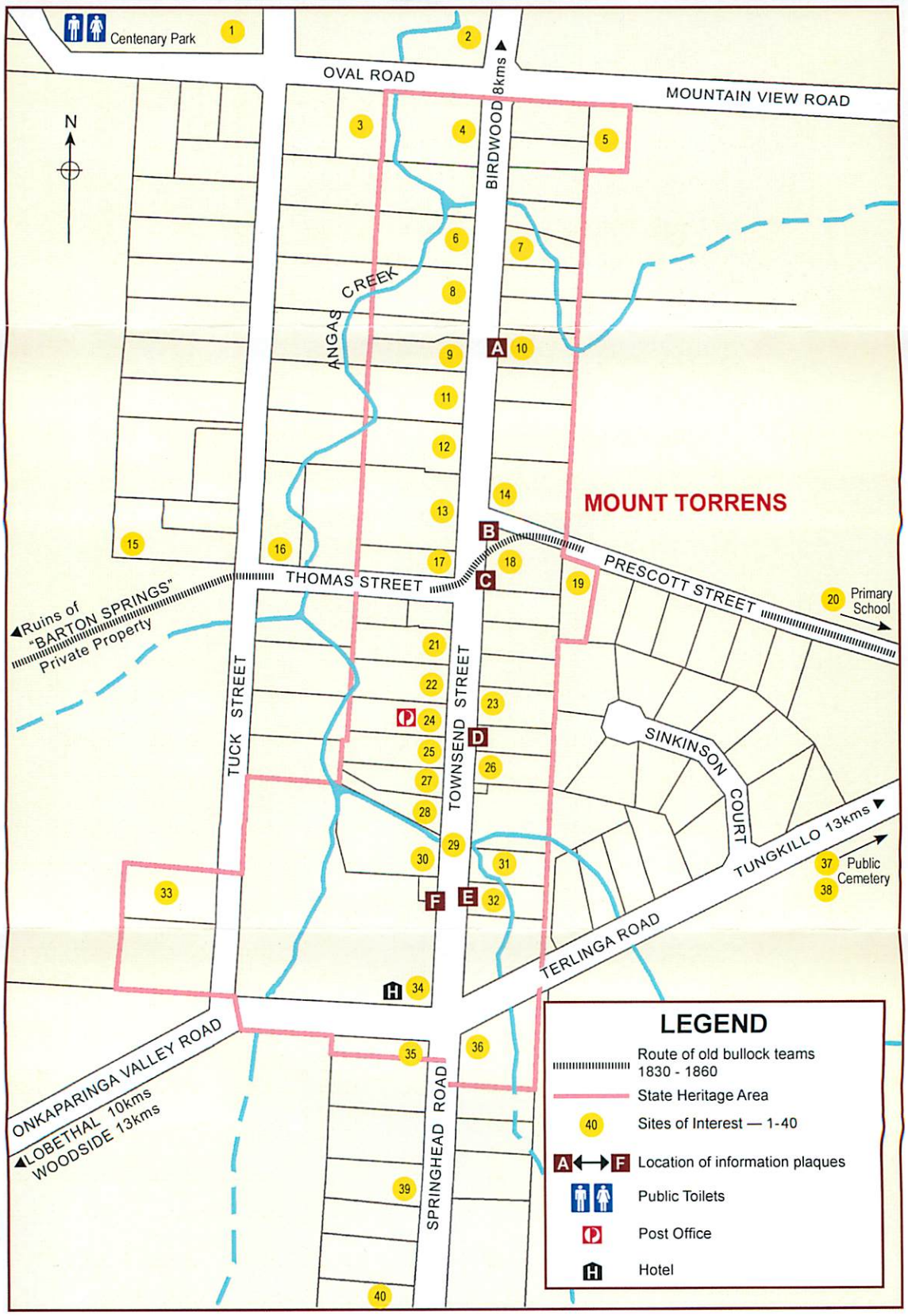
Storehouse & Workshop c1857 E
Wheelwright shop downstairs & upper rooms the "Mechanic's Institute". The 1973 cream brick garage replaced the old shop.

House: Former Sumner Bakery. c 1930 D
1853 A Blacksmith and Bootmaker's shop. In 1903, W.W. Sumner started a bakery here, in 1930 the old shop was removed and a new bakery built.

House: "Sumner House" c1900 D
One of the best preserved stone residences. A single storey blue stone with painted brick dressings. First owner Edward T. Sumner.

House: "Claridge House" c1910 D
Typical of the 19th Century Scottish Baronial architecture, with hipped, tent & gable roofs. Built by W.W. Sumner, owner of the bakery. 27

General Store & Post Office c1860 D
J.H. Crowe built a shop/living area with cool storage underneath. The 1865 two storey residence (left) has Cotswolds-style stonework.

House: Former warehouse. c1860 D
Built by J.H. Crowe, a storekeeper: used for his shop storage. 24 In 1928 purchased by W.W. Sumner to store flour & sell bran & pollard. 27

House: "Sancreed House" c1857 C
Built by G.Dunn, 4 room house & outbuildings. Then Hicks' Butchery. 21 Wooden shutters hinged-up to serve customers.