MANSIONS OF GLENELG

A self-guided walk of Glenelg's historic mansions

CITY OF HOLDFAST BAY

South Esplanade, looking South East, c. 1900 PH-GL-0096

By the mid-1880s, the sand dunes of Glenelg's esplanade had long given way to the summer residences of the prominent and wealthy of South Australia. Previously known as Albert Parade, and then Seawall, South Esplanade was once a promenade of magnificent Victorian mansions and summer gardens. With time, these mansions slowly began to occupy land beyond the dunes morphing Glenelg's streets into a suburb of character and charm.

Walk duration is 45 minutes.

Flick to the map at the back of this brochure to help assist you with your walk.

→ BEGIN YOUR WALK AT THE SOUTH WEST CORNER OF **MOSELEY SQUARE**.

Please respect the privacy of all homes along the way.

✱ additional properties of interest

Cover Image: Glenara, South Esplanade in 1875 PH-GS-0033

01

SEAFIELD TOWER

1876 6-7 SOUTH ESPLANADE

State Heritage listed Seafield Tower was the first of its kind built along the esplanade. It was designed as two self-contained, 15 room summer residences for Sir Henry Ayers and Sir Thomas Elder, when both were in their late fifties. Ayers made his fortune from the Burra Copper Mines that secured the wealth and future of the colony of South Australia. Uluru - Ayers Rock in the Northern Territory is named in his honour. Elder was a pastoralist, businessman, philanthropist and politician. Ayers inhabited the northern side and Elder the southern. Each residence had a separate staircase to the tower, but the landing was communal.

Seafield Tower, South Esplanade, looking North toward Moseley Square in 1875 PH-GL-1169

→ CONTINUE ALONG **SOUTH ESPLANADE**.

02

MELROSE

1904, 1969 13 SOUTH ESPLANADE

Once the home of the Melrose family, we stop here to remember Charles James 'Jimmy' Melrose, a South Australian aviator; the youngest and only solo flyer to complete the 1934 Melbourne Centenary Air Race from London to Melbourne. Information on his life, death and aviation feats is recorded on the northern pillar of the fence and the seafront linear park is named in his honour. The home of ten rooms was built by the Blackwell family in 1904. It was occupied and then owned by the Melrose family from 1916 onward. It was demolished to make way for Glenelg's first high-rise development along the esplanade.

Melrose, c. 1948 SLSA B 71184/3

CONTINUE ALONG **SOUTH ESPLANADE**.

03

STORMONT

1886 14 SOUTH ESPLANADE

Designed in the Georgian style, Stormont was built for South Australian grazier Simon Barnard. When built, it contained twelve rooms, two cellars and two bathrooms. Two years later, in 1888, Barnard played a game of poker against William Pile, a pastoralist, South Australian horse racing identity and owner of Albert Hall at number 16 Esplanade. Barnard not only lost the game to Pile, but he also lost his collateral, Stormont.

Stormont, 1986 PH-GL-0281

CONTINUE ALONG **SOUTH ESPLANADE**.

04

ALBERT HALL

1878 16 SOUTH ESPLANADE

Albert Hall is a twenty room, 3-storey mansion first occupied by William Kyffin Thomas, one of the first European colonists, and part owner of newspapers the *Adelaide Observer* and *Register*. Thomas, who had retired to Glenelg due to ill health, died the very same year Albert Hall was finished and it passed into the hands of William Pile. Pile added a magnificent ballroom with an alcove for musicians. At this time, the property included the block of land bounded by Kent Street. It became the Oriental Private Hotel in 1930 and in 1982, a backpackers' lodge. In the 1990s it was restored as a private residence and, more recently, converted into three apartments.

Albert Hall, 1878 PH-GL-0262

CONTINUE ALONG **SOUTH ESPLANADE**.

05

SHOREHAM APARTMENTS

1938 18A SOUTH ESPLANADE

Glenelg has always been progressive. From the 1920s and throughout the 1930s, developers and residents embraced the new architectural trends of the Art Deco style. At the time Shoreham was built, it was the epitome of modernism. Overlooking the sea, the 3-storey apartments have a waterfall style frontage, typical of the style. Shoreham's name is taken from the Shoreham Hotel in Washington DC, built in 1930. The original proprietor of these apartments, Mrs E. Kiernan, took a liking to the name during a holiday spent at the hotel in Washington.

Shoreham Apartments, 1939 SLSA PRG 1638/12/150

CONTINUE ALONG **SOUTH ESPLANADE**.

06

SEAWALL APARTMENTS

1882 22-23 SOUTH ESPLANADE

Seawall apartments were originally two seafront mansions of 9 rooms each built in 1882. Much of the original Victorian detailing is still evident in number 22. The original masonry and cast iron fence, typical of the 1870s, still remains. Number 22 was owned by John Warren Bakewell, a member of the local Board of Advice for the South Australian Company. Number 23 was owned by William R. Hubble who was a successful South Australian travelling salesman. Between 1912 and 1937, the property became Holdfast Bay College (Preparatory) run by Mr and Mrs Hill. Their private residence was upstairs whilst downstairs were two classrooms. The beach and front lawns were the boys' recreational spaces.

Seawall, South Esplanade, looking North toward Moseley Square in 1892 PH-GL-1173

CONTINUE ALONG **SOUTH ESPLANADE**.

07

RALEIGH FLATS

1919, 1940 31 SOUTH ESPLANADE

The parcel of land at 31 South Esplanade originally featured a 9 room house built for William and Georgina Dowling. Georgina was a Sunday school teacher and readily gave her services to charity. When she died in 1930, she bequeathed the house to the University of Adelaide. The university sold the property around 1932 to Solomon Saunders, jeweller, financier, and a leader within the Jewish community. Saunders redeveloped the land as the current Art Deco flats, then known as Raleigh.

Raleigh Flats, 1987 PH-GS-0013

CONTINUE ALONG **SOUTH ESPLANADE**.

08

GLENARA

1873 32 SOUTH ESPLANADE

Glenara is one of Glenelg's stately treasures. It was built for William Hill and was owned by his descendants until 1990. A fine example of Italianate architecture, it has an imposing central, flag topped tower which accentuates its castle-like appearance. It was designed by architect Thomas English, as a 6-room house. Two front rooms, the tower, a widow's walk (as seen in photograph but since removed) and a conservatory were added at a later date. A widow's walk is a railed rooftop with a good vantage point of the sea, popular in 19th century coastal houses. The name is said to come from the wives of mariners, who would watch for their spouses' return, often in vain.

Glenara, 1875 PH-GS-0034

→ TURN EAST AND TRAVEL DOWN **ROBERT STREET**.

09

RESTORMEL

1881 15 ROBERT STREET

Restormel was built for accountant Joshua Gurr, and is typical of a gentleman's residence of the era. Gurr was a member of the Aboriginal Friends Association, which was formed to curb the unfavourable attitude of some colonists towards the Indigenous population. Gurr died in 1910, aged 92 years.

→ CONTINUE EAST ALONG **ROBERT STREET**.

10

COLONNA

1881 5 ROBERT STREET

Colonna was built for Clara Jane Howie, and was occupied by the Reverend James Howie. Built of squared bluestone, with smooth rendered stone quoins, Colonna has a unique arched verandah of the Romanesque style. It is the sole surviving building of its kind in Glenelg and has been faithfully maintained for the last 125 years by descendants of the Whitington family, who purchased the property around 1890.

→ CONTINUE EAST ALONG **ROBERT STREET** TO THE INTERSECTION OF **ROBERT** AND **MOSELEY STREETS**.

11

SOWARD'S VILLA

1887 62 MOSELEY STREET

On the eastern side of Moseley Street, Soward's Villa, originally a home of ten rooms was built by, and for architect and former Mayor of Glenelg George Klewitz Soward. Soward married Emma Beare in 1879, the daughter of William Loose Beare, who arrived on the first of the colonising ships to reach Kangaroo Island. On the northern side, above the front door of the home, appears a moulding of the Beare family crest which includes the motto 'Bear and Forbear'.

Soward's catalogue of design in Glenelg is impressive, and includes many of the stops on this walk: Stormont, Kilwinning Flats and Alexandra Terrace. Leading an active public life, Soward was chairman of the Charitable Funds Commission, a governor of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia, president of the Glenelg Institute and Glenelg Cricket Club and Mayor of Glenelg from 1895 to 1898.

Soward's Villa, c. 1897 SLSA B 47794/184

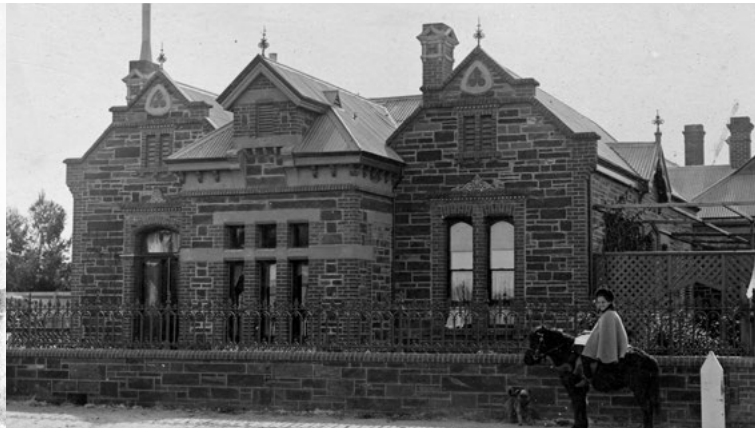
CONTINUE NORTH ALONG **MOSELEY STREET** TO **PIER STREET**, TURN LEFT AND TRAVEL WEST ALONG **PIER STREET**.

12

WATERWORTH

1885 11 PIER STREET

Built in 1885 for Thomas Reid as a cottage, it was sold 3 years later to Sarah Sparks, wife of Henry Sparks, Manager of the South Australian Company, founder of both the Adelaide and Glenelg Ovals and Mayor of Glenelg. At his own expense, Sparks salvaged wood from the wreck of the HMS Buffalo in New Zealand to construct the Mayoral Chair; now on display at the Bay Discovery Centre, Moseley Square. The HMS Buffalo carried South Australia's first Governor, John Hindmarsh, to Glenelg in 1836. Sparks enlarged the home to an 11 room residence where he eventually died in 1900. Waterworth later became flats, a private hospital and then a nursing home. It is now divided into three apartments.



Waterworth, c. 1888 SLSA B 47794/182

TRAVEL NORTH ALONG THE **LANE** TO THE EAST OF **WATERWORTH.**

CROSS OVER **SALTRAM ROAD** AND CONTINUE NORTH ALONG THE **LANE** ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE.

As you walk down this section of lane, another lane will appear on your left. These lanes were originally service or 'night-cart' lanes, enabling access for the removal of waste from the house's outdoor toilets. Note the buildings at the rear of number 2 and 4 Kent Street. These are outbuildings erected in 1883, which included a laundry, stable and coach-house. They were part of Thomas Pile's extensive estate which included Stormont and Albert Hall on South Esplanade. The property at number 2 Kent Street was named 'The Lodge', and was run as a school by a former maid of Pile. It later became the home of William Fisk, former Glenelg Mayor, pharmacist and Independent Member of Parliament.

13

ST JOHN'S ROW TERRACES

1887 14-17 ST JOHN'S ROW

Joseph English designed these four terraces of 8 rooms each, typical of Italianate style, popular in the 1880s. Joseph was the son of Thomas English, a leading colonial architect whose notable buildings include Townsend House, Hove and Glenara, South Esplanade. In 1880, Thomas formed the architectural firm English & Soward (the same Soward of 62 Moseley Street). In 1884, after Thomas' death, Joseph was made partner, and continued on with the successful firm for more than 40 years. Lionel Logue, speech therapist to King George VI lived at number 16 with his family from the age of 5 to 8 years.

St John's Row Terraces, c. 1900 PH-GL-1399

TURN LEFT ONTO **KENT STREET** FOLLOWED BY A RIGHT TURN INTO **ST JOHN'S ROW**.

CONTINUE NORTH ALONG **ST JOHN'S ROW.**

14

HINDMARSH HOUSE

1874 3-5 COLLEGE STREET

Many of the properties with frontages on South Esplanade kept beautiful summer gardens bounded by St John's Row which was originally a service lane. From the 1880s onward, residential development of the street began with the larger allotments along the eastern side being subdivided. Today you can still see evidence along the street of outbuildings and original dry stone walls of the South Esplanade mansions.

These two Victorian terraces were built by well-known master-builder, Charles Farr who lived in number 3 for the first few years before renting out both as seaside accommodation. Premier of the colony, the Honorable John Colton, lived in Number 5 from 1876 to 1877 and in 1963 both terraces were known as the College House Private Hotel. Note that opposite the terraces, at number 2A is an old coach house which belonged to William Shierlaw's property, 'Clivedon', which was situated on Moseley Street.

Melrose summer garden abutting St John's Row, 1948 SLSA B 71184/2

Hindmarsh House (bottom left corner), College Street looking East in 1878 PH-GL-1235

→ TURN RIGHT INTO **COLLEGE STREET**.

→ CONTINUE EAST DOWN **COLLEGE STREET** TO THE INTERSECTION OF **COLLEGE** AND **MOSELEY STREETS**.

15

KILWINNING FLATS

1923 15 MOSELEY STREET

On the southern corner of College Street, architects English & Soward designed Kilwinning Flats for H.M. Player. The flats are indicative of the growth of Glenelg after WWI and the establishment of modern forms of accommodation in the suburbs. The building is well detailed with face red bricks and flourishes of Edwardian detailing. These turn of the century elements were then combined with 'modern' details such as the circular window and black glass tiles on the shopfront. From 1927, *Ann's Pantry* inhabited the shopfront, selling 'choice homemade cakes, pies and pasties'. The flats were later renamed *Majestic Mansions*.

16

ALEXANDRA TERRACE

1878 1-7 MOSELEY STREET

Designed by Thomas English, Alexandra Terrace was built as four attached terrace houses. The owner, Alexander Cunningham, occupied number 7. Alexander was born in the Tower of London in 1829, whilst his father was stationed there. He migrated to Australia in 1854, opening a 'fancy goods store' in Rundle Street, Adelaide. He made his home here in these terraces for more than twenty years. Each terrace had 8 rooms, including a basement for servants, kitchen, dining and drawing room on the raised ground floor level, and bedrooms on the upper floor, with a door opening onto the balcony. When Alexandra Terrace was built, this section of Moseley Street was a place of imposing mansions, including William Shierlaw's home 'Clivedon' and pastoralist Andrew Tennant's house, 'Essenside' which were both to the south of Alexandra Terraces and have long since been demolished.

View of Moseley Street including Alexandra Terrace (front right), Essenside and Clivedon, c. 1925 PH-GL-1398

CONTINUE NORTH ALONG **MOSELEY STREET**.

WELCOME BACK TO **JETTY ROAD, GLENELG.**

THE OLIVES

1867 5 OLIVE STREET

The Olives was built by Architect Edmund Wright for his brother Edward and is the oldest surviving mansion in Glenelg. It had 18 rooms including a coach house and stable and sat on 14 acres of land. The front entrance was in High Street and the back entrance was from Partridge Street along what is now Maturin Road. Major subdivision of the property occurred in the 1930s. For many years, it was used as a reception centre known as Russell Court during which time the home was largely modified internally. Over the last 25 years, The Olives has been lovingly restored by its owners.

The Olives, 1880 PH-GL-0245

REFER TO MAP FOR DIRECTION.

PARTRIDGE HOUSE

1899 38 PARTRIDGE STREET

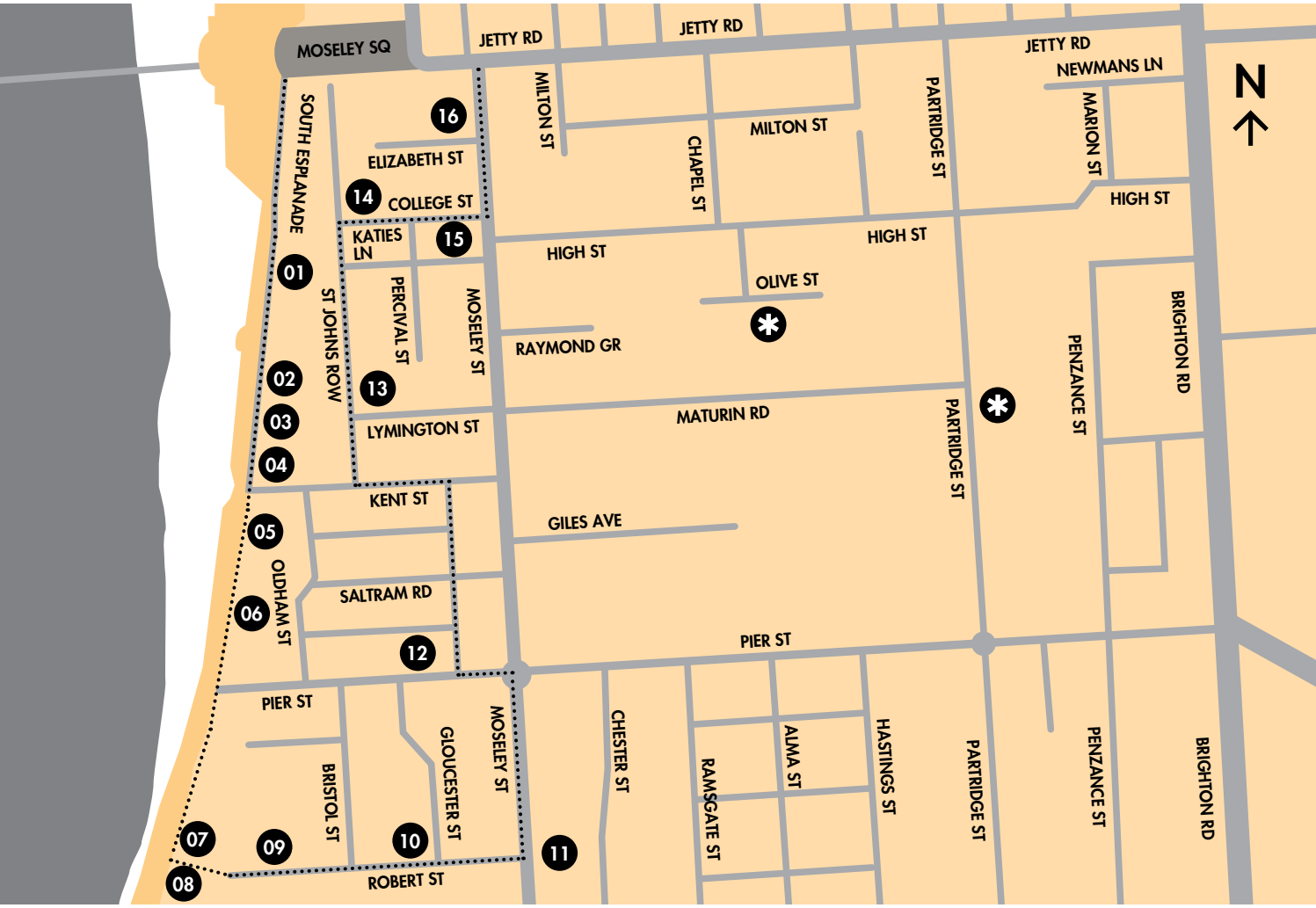
The land at 38 Partridge Street was purchased in 1839 by Mrs Elinor Varley. Architects English, Soward and Jackson designed the house originally of 18 rooms and outhouses. Charles Grant Varley occupied the house until January 1902, when Elinor died. The Thomas family, Mary (Maisie) Harriet and Evan Kyffin, moved in soon after. From 1912 to 1973 the house was owned by Pastoralist H. P. McLachlan and his sons.

On 10 April 1973, Glenelg Council purchased the property saving it from demolition. Today the City of Holdfast Bay hires out the house to community groups and for private functions. The gardens are open to the public daily and feature the Townsend Drinking Fountain, gifted to Council in 1877.

Partridge House, 1971 PH-GL-0313

REFER TO MAP FOR DIRECTION.

MANSIONS OF GLENELG MAP



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1-7 MOSELEY STREET

***** THE OLIVES
5 OLIVE STREET

***** PARTRIDGE HOUSE
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