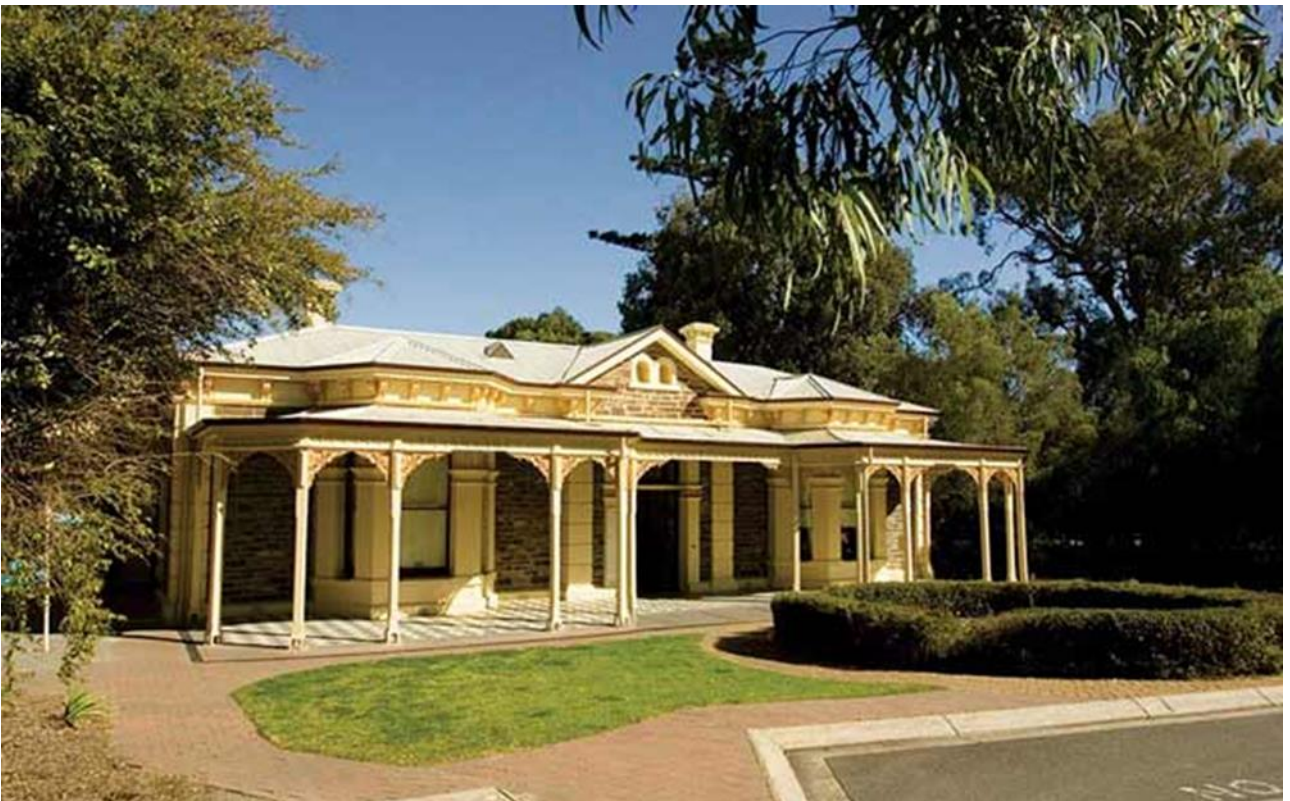




# Unley Heritage Bicycle and Walking Route Fullarton Ward

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This heritage walking and cycling route has been compiled to help promote cycling and walking and to support the **City of Unley Walking and Cycling Plan 2016–2021**.

While the sites described are some of the most important heritage sites in the area there are many other buildings and streetscapes to enjoy as your cycle or walk by

If cycling - cycle safely, obey the road rules, use footpaths as appropriate for safety particularly on Unley Road and use pedestrian crossings on Unley Road.

- War Memorial, Ridge Park, Myrtle Bank** - corner Glen Osmond Road and Barr Smith Avenue: this memorial was constructed in 1919 to commemorate those who died in World War I and is a feature of Ridge Park. Ridge park was officially opened in December 1906. It was formally opening as a new recreation ground, purchased for the district by private subscription as a means of protecting the grand old eucalypts on the property. The land had for many years been a favourite picnic ground.

In 1992 Unley staff measured one of Unley's oldest trees in Ridge Park, estimated to be 400 years old.

The Ridge park War Memorial was erected in memory of those who served in World War One

Residents of Glen Osmond have every reason to be proud of the local memorial which has been erected to the young men of the district who went to the front. It was decided several years ago that the men who went from the "village" should be remembered in a fitting manner, and the public spiritedness and loyalty of the people has resulted in the erection of a handsome obelisk, which has been placed in Ridge Park, and in a position, which faces the main hills road. It is 25 ft. in height, massive in detail and proportions. The apex is finished with massive blocks of pink marble from Angaston and is relieved with heavy modillions and is surmounted with a trench mortar, which was secured by the representations of the Mayor of Unley (Mr. H. C. Richards, M.P.). On the front and side faces of the pedestal, copper tablets have been inserted containing the names of those who enlisted and fell. The memorial was designed by Mr. Albert S. Conrad, who gave his services gratuitously, and the contracting work was done by Mr. W. P. Orr. The memorial was unveiled on Sunday afternoon in the presence of a large gathering of residents.

Dedicated on Sunday 18 December 1921
- 22 Ferguson Avenue, Myrtle Bank** - grand residence, built circa 1875. The land has been divided over a number of years, but the original outbuildings, stables etc. remain with the house.  
(Behind later subdivisions)
- 22 Rossington Avenue, Myrtle Bank** - a residence, "Waverly" was built circa 1852 and was probably an early farmhouse in the area. Most of the original home was constructed of timber brought from England, but a number of stone additions have been made.

The original farmhouse was two storey and was last owned by Washington Moorhouse before being demolished. There is no evidence that the original owner of the site that 22 Rossington Ave is on ever owned land or property bought by Moorhouse.)

The House at 22 Rossington Avenue appears to have been built by John Johnston, a tailor whose family resided in Oakbank. Johnston owned land stretching from Ferguson Ave to Fisher Street. Rossington Road did not exist before 1929 when Johnston's heirs sold parts of the land to the Unley City Council to form Rossington Avenue. It is likely the house at 22 Rossington Avenue was the family home of John Johnston which existed on the property as early as 1890, described as a house and land on 5 acres. It was perhaps built earlier – he took possession of the land in 1884. The Johnston family subdivided the land and sold it off as smaller blocks throughout the early part of 1900.



4. **5 Fisher Street, Fullarton** - Glen Osmond Primary School, built in 1877, was the first State Primary school within the City of Unley.

Glen Osmond Primary School, first established on Portrush Road in 1858, moved to its present site on Fisher Street in 1878. The Education Department purchased the land for £175 and the school was built for £2,000. The original section comprised a two-story house plus two classrooms and a small room. Other additions to the original building plus extra buildings were made at various times during the 20th century.

According to a parliamentary paper of 1879, 141 children were instructed during 1878. Under the Education Act of 1875, attendance was compulsory from age 7-13 with fees in the vicinity of 4d to 6d a week with some provision for free scholars of which Glen Osmond had its share. It was not until 1892 that an Act was passed for free education. The greater number of children attending the school parents were listed as labourers, followed by quarrymen (Glen Osmond Silver -Lead Mines) then farmers. According to the 1875 Education Act, children of school age were to attend school at least 70 days in each half year. Enrolments increased rapidly post WW1 when a considerable number of homes were erected in the area.

During the late 1920's another building was erected at the back of the school property. During the late 20's to 1940 classes were large with some classes holding 60+ students.

5. **23 Fisher Street, Fullarton** - a grand bungalow-style residence erected circa 1935; one of the best examples of this style of dwelling in the City.

6. **35 Fisher Street, Fullarton** - a residence, "Sedgeford", built circa 1885, is a good example of the ornate style of residence of the time.

7. **78 Fisher Street, Fullarton** - grand residence, "Woodfield", built in two stages in 1853 and 1883, was once the residence of Joshua Fisher, M.P. & M.L.C., a notable Adelaide businessman and philanthropist.

The original single story house known as Woodfield was built on ten acres of land around 1854 by new arrival James Crabb Verco. It was constructed of brick with slate stone foundations. Woodfield was named by Verco who selected the land from the wooded fields of the Fullarton district to build his ideal house at the foothills. The original building was a modest single storey building, the interior woodworks completed by Philip Santo, who would later become the Commissioner for Public Works.

In 1857 Woodfield was purchased by Joseph Fisher, whom the street was named after when subdivision of the area occurred. Fisher was part of a syndicate that bought South Australia's newspaper The Register in 1846. Fisher was just 14 years of age and is said to have made the money for his share as a young entrepreneur importing potatoes from Tasmania. He went on to become a major shareholder and, in 1865, retired at the age of 31 to manage his own affairs and spend time in his beloved garden at Woodfield. He then became one of the trustees for shareholders of the Bank of Adelaide, South Australia's first commercial bank and began a parliamentary career that spanned more than a decade.

Fisher added a more elaborate two storied building at the southern side of the original building in 1883. The house now had 20 rooms. Fisher spent much time and effort tending to the lavish gardens. The Fishers lived the remainder of their lives at the house. The grounds were sold off separately after the death of Annie Fisher in 1914.

Fisher Street was named after Joseph Fisher.

8. **80A Fisher Street, Fullarton** - "Casa Rica", built circa 1930 is one of the best: "Spanish Mission" style residences in Unley.

Originally part of the land belonging to Woodfield.



9. **84 Fisher Street, Fullarton** - this cottage/villa style residence, and is a valuable contribution to the character of the area.

Owned by Charles White along with 13 acres of land along Fullarton Road. He built the house around 1874, originally 6 rooms of brick. The house was tenanted until 1898 when it was purchased from White by the son of the tenant who died the year before, DeNeufville Lucas, who occupied the house next door, also owned by Charles White. The Lucas family held the property until 1969.

10. **11 Cheltenham Street, Highgate** - "Rosefield" was originally "the house to a farm in the area - its wide verandahs are typical of the "homestead style".

"Rosefield" was built by William Ferguson in 1844, and named after his wife, Rosina Forsyth. The Fergusons rented the land for farming. They laid out fruit trees and farmed the land and eventually were successful enough to purchase the land. They sold the property in 1852 to George White who lived there until his death in 1876. The property has been subdivided and sold off as residential blocks since.

11. **9 Cheltenham Street, Highgate** - this residence is of value because of its architectural individuality.

Originally numbered 3. Built for Mabel Marsh and Otto Puttman in 1912/13 after the land of Rosefield was subdivided.

12. **411 Fullarton Road, Fullarton** -the Fullarton Park Community Centre, built circa 1860, was once the "Hughes Estate", one of the original houses in Fullarton. Take the time to walk around the Centre, and enjoy the adjacent park. The cycle route resumes at the Fisher Street entrance to the Community Centre.

Now the Fullarton Park Community Centre. This is one of the earliest houses built in the area. James Frew bought the land and farmed it as early as 1850. He named the estate after his wife's family. A small cottage was built on the property, and later under the ownership of Charles Augustus Bleechmore, a second house was built in the 1860s. It is unknown what happened to the original cottage, however it is likely the original 6 roomed stone house built by Bleechmore was the foundation for the building on the site now.

During the 1870s the house was rented to George Church, who expanded the building by adding five additional rooms including the two reception rooms with bay windows at the front. The architect for these additions was GK Soward.

The property changed hands many times over the decades. The original ten acres was subdivided in 1917 and the house and remaining acres bought by Ethel and Harold Hughes, who lived there until 1974. The City of Unley purchased the property and eventually converted it into the Fullarton Park Community Centre.

29. **27 Avenue Road, Highgate** - Highgate Primary School was built in 1923, and is an attractive public institutional building of the period.

Two acres of land was purchased by the Education Department in 1915. Highgate school opened in 1923 with three teachers and a head teacher, they had 228 students, five classrooms and a staff room. A further four classrooms, a teachers store and hat room were added in 1928. In 1944 a junior school was added and Pavilion Room built in the school grounds.

### **55 Ferguson Ave, Myrtle Bank**

The Soldiers Home located at the homestead known as "Myrtle Bank" was officially opened on the 24th March 1917 following 18 months of community fundraising by the Soldiers Home League. It became known as the War Veterans Home, Myrtle Bank. The initial purpose was a home for discharged soldiers and sailors whilst they transitioned back to civilian occupations. Over its long history the War Veterans Home has transformed both in purpose and structure.



In the period 1919-1932 it was a Repatriation Commission hospital, 1932-1954 a Home for Old Soldiers, 1954-1975 an Aged Persons Home. Since the 1970's there has been significant refurbishment and redevelopment to meet the changing needs and the increasing standards and expectations of Residential Aged Care. The original Homestead was demolished in 2005 to make way for further expansion including the construction of independent living apartments.

## Acknowledgements

- The route is an update of the “**Unley Heritage Bicycle Route**” prepared by Unley Council’s Planning Department circa 2000 with the Support of “**Life. Be in it**” and the **State Bicycle Fund**.
- Research by Karen Paris, Curator Unley Museum
- Compiled by The Unley Bicycle Users Group.

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