

## **History of Barker Kindergarten**

Barker Kindergarten was built in 1926 by Mrs E.S. Barker and Miss E. K. Barker, and donated to the Kindergarten Union in memory of Mrs Barker's husband Mr Alfred Barker and his father Mr John Barker.

They used the Montessori method of teaching, with a hot lunch, a sleep, and care and learning was given by the Director and staff until the children went home at 2pm. In 1951 the tiny cottage on the western side of the kindergarten was purchased and demolished to provide a large area for outdoor activities.

This information has been taken from the document "A Short History of Barker Free Kindergarten" by Mrs Win Frame, written in May 1982. A copy of the entire document is available for interested people to read at the kindergarten.

## BARKER KINDERGARTEN

193-195 Tynte Street

*The teachings in the Free Kindergarten are laying foundations of citizenship, self respect and respect for others, in the pliable minds of the little children, a training that is vitally necessary in a young progressive country like Australia - a training that will form the characters of future men and women whom Australia will be proud to possess.*

These aims of the kindergarten movement were recorded by the general secretary Doris A. Beesham in the *Annual report* of 1926-27. Barker Kindergarten was constructed in the same year as were other early purpose built kindergartens for the Kindergarten Union of South Australia.

The Kindergarten Union was founded in 1905 and quickly expanded under the guidance of Lillian de Lissa. The first kindergarten was opened in a worker's cottage in Franklin Street in 1906.



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From 1921 the Little Citizens' Free Kindergarten was conducted at North Adelaide in the Archer Street Methodist hall. By 1924-25 the union reported, '... the mothers hope some day to have a building as good as the Keith Sheridan Kindergarten and are working hard with that end in view'.

Two members

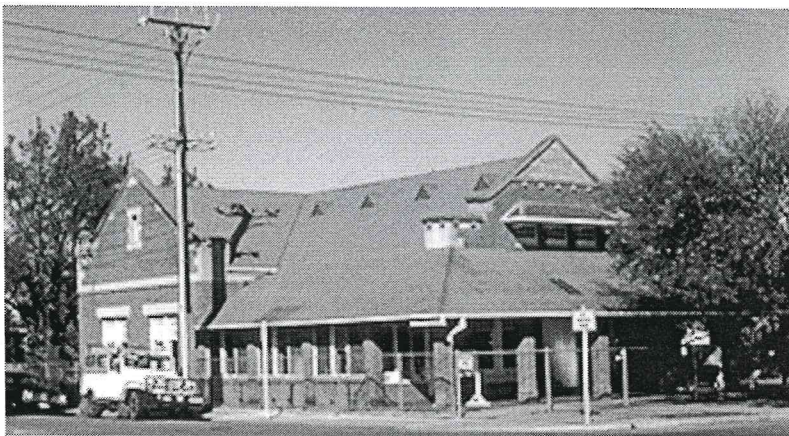
of the North Adelaide committee, Miss Eleanor Kate Barker and her sister-in-law Mrs Alfred Barker, decided to pay for the construction of the kindergarten. In the then typically self-effacing female fashion of the time they acted in memory of John and Alfred Barker, father and husband respectively, both of whom died in 1925.

John Barker of Barker and Co. was an auctioneer and stock agent, a businessman 'of the strictest integrity'. He was modest regarding his own associations with philanthropic organisations but his great interest was horse-racing. He was associated with the South Australian Jockey Club for over thirty years, and chairman for over ten years. He was also a director of the Adelaide Steamship Company.



## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

The Barker Kindergarten was designed by E.H. McMichael and built by M.C. Richardson. The building displayed detailing typical of its period such as gables with cement dressings. The large return veranda, brick construction and paned windows give the kindergarten a distinctly domestic appearance which it retains to this day as there have



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been no major alterations since it was first built. The president of the Little Citizens' Free Kindergarten, Mrs Nutter Thomas, opened the new kindergarten on 2 August 1926.

The environmental significance of the building is derived from its distinctive character, located on a corner site. In scale it complements the residential character of the immediate locality.

*Advertiser*, 22 May 1925; *Builder*, 10 March 1926, p. 17, 17 March 1926, p. 15; Jones, H. (ed), *Jubilee history of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia*, 1975, pp. 6-10; MLSA, *Kindergarten Union of South Australia Inc.*, annual reports; *Register*, 22 May, 1925.

The text in this Information Sheet was copied from the **Heritage of the City of Adelaide: An Illustrated Guide**, (1996). The photographs contained in this Information Sheet are a selection of those held by Heritage Services, in digital format.

The property described in this Information Sheet is included in the Register of State Heritage places. A heritage listing does not mean or imply right of access by the public to such properties.

*The heritage related Principles of Development Control as well as the Precinct specific objectives and Principles of Development Control are contained in the Adelaide (City) Development Plan. These should be referred to in whole when contemplating any development.*

*Further information on the Heritage Incentives Scheme, an initiative of Council to sponsor timely and appropriate conservation action is available upon request of the Customer Service Centre.*