How the Database is created

Electronic copies of Gawler's rates assessment books are made

Task 1: Original rates assessment books are photocopied or photographed
Progress: books from 23 years have been copied (spanning from 1858 to 1891)

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Task 2: data from copies of rates assessment books are manually entered into Excel spreadsheets
Progress: data has been entered for 15 years of rates assessment books

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Task 3: the data in the spreadsheets are checked multiple times for accuracy
Progress: spreadsheets covering 12 years of rates assessments have gone through the final stage of checking

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Gawler Historical Rates Assessment Database

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An electronic database is created into which the data can be imported
Progress: this part of the project is complete

The Database is linked to data from other sources such as photographs, maps, cameo histories, newspaper articles and links to current street addresses and titles
Progress: this will occur in the future

September 2011

People and organisations involved in the Gawler Historical Rates Assessment Database Project:

Gawler Environment and Heritage Association (GEHA): Helen Wilmore, Andrew Paisley and others

Community volunteers: Terry Flower, Bev Burke

National Trust: Bev Burke, David Tucker and others

Gawler Public Library

Gawler Volunteer Resource Centre

Many thanks to all the people previously involved: Geoffrey New, Kathy Brown, Adrian Brown, Kristina Paisley, Phil Hooper, Jenny Slocombe, Elena Cutting and others

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Contact details and further information:
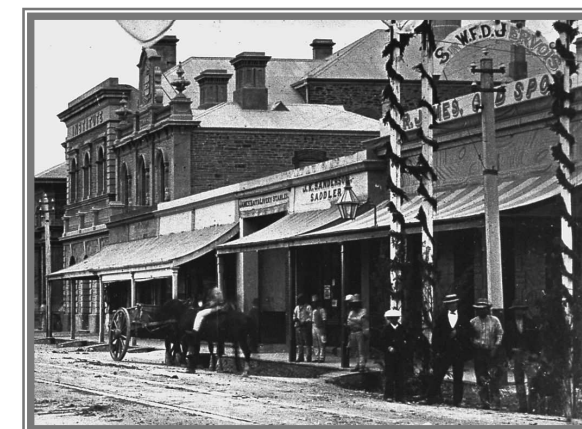
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Front cover image: Murray St Gawler, Old Spot to Institute, 1882, courtesy of the Town of Gawler, Gawler Heritage Collection

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The Gawler Historical Rates Assessment Database Project

The Gawler Historical Rates Assessment Database Project

Background: In 2004, the Gawler Environment and Heritage Association (GEHA) began working with Gawler Council staff to develop a strategy to help protect significant historical sites in Gawler. Along with other local history enthusiasts, they decided to develop a database of relevant historical information. The Database Group now also includes other community volunteers.

Goal: To develop a readily searchable electronic database that duplicates rates assessment books for the Town of Gawler, starting in the 1800s and progressing to the early 1900s. The database will be made available as a community resource for public, civic, corporate and academic research.
In the future, the database will be linked to data from other sources such as photographs, maps, cameo histories, newspaper articles and links to current street addresses and titles.
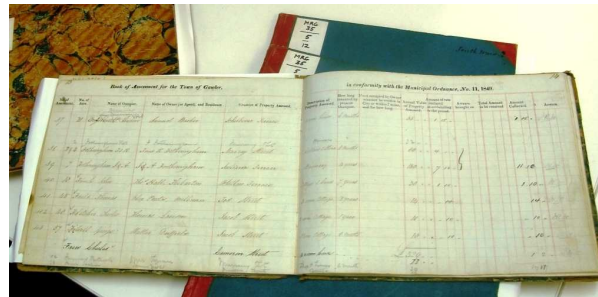
Value to the community:
The database will allow people to carry out rapid searches for information for a variety of purposes:
- Property research
- Family history research
- Research on an individual or company
- Social history
- Industrial research
- Research into the historical significance of a site (allowing for archaeological investigations to be undertaken prior to building development).

The Database Group is a member of the Gawler History Network. The Database will link into and facilitate the historical research being done by other member organisations such as the National Trust and Gawler Public Library.

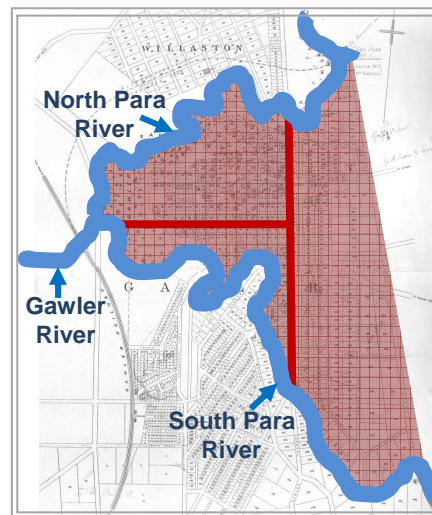## Gawler's Rates Assessment Books

These were produced annually from 1858 and consist of a hand written entry for each parcel of land, containing the following data: location (town acre number), name of occupier and owner, street, description of property (e.g. 2 room cottage, hotel, corn store, foundry), property value, rates owing and collected.

The Town of Gawler rates assessment books are held at State Records of South Australia, Gepps Cross.

The Town of Gawler in the 1800s

The town of Gawler was settled in 1839. The town was bounded by the North and South Para rivers. The Town of Gawler council wards were defined by these rivers and Murray Street and Jacob Street.
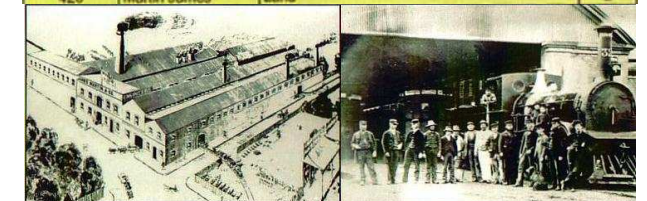

Demonstration of uses of the Database:

Family history research – properties owned and occupied by the Fotheringham family in 1867

Alex Fotheringham (second from right) aboard PS Bourke

Robert Fotheringham

Occupier	Owner	Land Use
Mrs David Fotheringham	Robert Fotheringham	Residence
Fotheringham Brothers	Fotheringham Brothers	Spirit Store & c
Fotheringham Brothers	Fotheringham Brothers	Brewery Premises
Fotheringham Brothers	James Martin	Malt House
Mrs James Fotheringham	Edward Clement	Residence & Land
James Fotheringham	James Fotheringham	Land
Mrs Alex Fotheringham	Mrs Alex Fotheringham	Residence, Land & Garden
Robert Fotheringham	Robert Fotheringham	Residence & Land

Industrial history research – properties in Gawler owned by James Martin, the owner of the Phoenix Foundry, in 1867 and 1891

Acre number	Occupier	Description of Land Use	Value
13	Martin & Loutit	Foundry, Workshops, Sheds, Paintshop, Carriage Shop, Offices	200
14	Fotheringham Bros	Malt House	60
14	Engelbrecht Theo	Empty Shop	15
47 & 48	Engelbrecht Theo	Gawler Arms Hotel Stabling Sheds Store &c	175
50	Martin James	Land	5
109	Yule	Residence	50
199	Gill David	Shop & House	35
199	Hostuns Jas	Corner Shop & Ho	45
199	Lamb T	Shop & House	35
199	Vacant	Old Post Office	35
199	Young Joseph	Hotel & Premises	200
366 & 367	Martin James	Land	6
420	Martin James	Land	2

Acre number	Occupier	Description of Land Use	Value
13 & 14	Martin James & Co	Workshops, Offices, Paint Shop & Stores	250
47 & 48	Heseltine G A F	Hotel, Yard & Stables	210
50	vacant	Fenced Land	7
108	Cranz A G	Residence & Land	50
199	James Richard	Hotel, Yard & Stabling	200
199	Kinnear W & Son	Shop & Dwelling	50
199	Wakefield H	Shop & Dwelling	60
230 - 233	Martin Jas & Co	Foundry, Workshops & Land	390
297 - 299	Martin Jas & Co	Workshops & Land, assessed with Foundry	-
366 - 367	vacant	Fenced Land	5
420	vacant	Land	5