



# Showcasing SA Heritage Places

## former Taylor & Forgie's Workshop & Dwelling

1 Tod Street, Gawler

SAHR 12154 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place on 13 February 1986

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Built in 1858 this building was, for many years, the premises of Taylor & Forgie who, during the latter half of the nineteenth century, were the principal builders and carpenters in Gawler. They also offered an undertaking service as a sideline to their main trade.

### TAYLOR & FORGIE – builders, carpenters and undertakers:

William Taylor established a carpentry and undertaking business in Gawler in 1855 and, in 1857, purchased part of an allotment in Tod Street for £280. The next year, he erected a shop and residence on the Tod Street frontage and various sheds and workshops in the yard at the rear. Parapet walls were erected on three sides of the property.



former Taylor & Forgie's Building, 2008.

The business operated as Taylor & Ponder until 1865, when Mr Ponder moved to Kapunda. Taylor then formed a partnership with Scottish immigrant, Alexander Forgie, and from that time the business was known as Taylor & Forgie.

The firm of Taylor & Forgie constructed numerous private dwellings in Gawler and was responsible for the first public pumping station for Gawler's water supply, as well as substantial additions to the Police Station and Old Spot Hotel, the woodwork of the Tod Street Uniting Church, and additions to Alfred Sheard's Drapers (Essex House).

Both William Taylor and Alexander Forgie were prominent Gawler citizens. Taylor was a town councillor and had interests in several Barossa mining companies. Forgie was a member of the Independent Order of Oddfellows (IOOF) Lodge and, for thirty years, taught at the Methodist Sunday School.

While the name 'Taylor & Forgie' is no longer associated with building and carpentry in Gawler, the undertaking 'sideline' has continued through five generations. Today the firm of [Taylor & Forgie Funeral Directors](#) is recognised as the oldest family-owned and operated funeral business in Australia.

### THE BUILDING:



former Taylor & Forgie's building, 1986

Architecturally, the former Taylor & Forgie's workshop is an excellent example of a commercial building of the late nineteenth century. The two-storey, stone building has an oblique corner entrance to the main commercial area, and a second entrance to the residential section.

While the exterior fabric has had little alteration, the interior has undergone extensive renovation during the building's many uses – for example as an antique shop, tea rooms and boutique.

In 1883 the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) held its first Gawler meeting in Taylor & Forgie's premises.

### ASSOCIATED STATE HERITAGE PLACES:

At least four places in the South Australian Heritage Register are associated with the firm of Taylor & Forgie: the former **Pumping Station** (SAHR 12161); the **Old Spot Hotel** (SAHR 12126); the **Gawler Uniting** (former Wesleyan Methodist) **Church** (SAHR 10388); and **Essex House** (SAHR 11049), a former drapery that has one of only two surviving, in situ, aerial (flying fox) cash handling systems in South Australia.

