



Nomination for Brickbat Moorfield Mansion



This 1860s house hadn't been heritage-listed and it appears that West Torrens Council didn't know why. Heritage listing would have prevented it from being razed but destruction has now proceeded. The Council advised that local heritage surveys had not been undertaken since the late 1990s, that this property hadn't been identified for listing and was unsure why Moorfield had not been given local heritage status.

Apparently the most recent local heritage survey for West Torrens was conducted in the late 1990s and the consultants engaged never identified this property for listing, so demolition has progressed unhindered.

That such a demolition was possible without any public discussion is an indictment of the council's lack of knowledge of its own backyard and apparently of any interest in such matters. In order to prevent such accidents in the future, it should be a matter of policy that all pre-1914 structures be automatically preserved until a final decision on their merits is made.

This example has been nominated for a brickbat, showing the inadequacy of heritage protection in South Australia.