

REGISTER ASSESSMENT REPORT

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE ACT 1978

Item No.: 6531-10988

FORMER AMP BUILDING
5 NORMAN STREET
PORT PIRIE SA 5540

Statement of Cultural Significance

Associated with the AMP and the commercial history of the town of Port Pirie, this building forms an important landmark in the street.

Relevant Criteria

Important to the understanding of South Australia's social and cultural heritage and an example of one of its rare and unusual aspects. Associational (national).

Significant Interest

Architectural: Purpose built for the AMP, the building displays the unusual (and extravagant) detail of company motto and statuary on the parapet. The bulk of the building emphasises the solidity of the AMP.

Historical: Built 1916 in the turn of the century spate of building in Port Pirie reflecting the rising importance of the town as population centre in the eyes of national companies.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items.



MANAGER
STATE HERITAGE BRANCH

Date: 28/1/92

former AMP Building
5 Norman Street
Port Pirie SA 5540

Item No.: 6531-10988

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

Architectural

Two storey brick and stucco building with symmetrical Italianate facade. Arched doors and windows on ground floor with ornate keystones. Balcony opening on first floor. Balustraded parapet and pediment topped with AMP motto 'Amicus certus in re incerta' and statuary.

Building is imposing in style and detail, emphasising the solidity and security of the insurance company.

The interior of the building is relatively intact, although affected by later additions and alterations in the form of office partitioning, new ceilings in some rooms and new door fittings. However, the entrance hall and staircase and first floor rooms are in more original condition. Several of these rooms and the corridors display an extravagant variety of plaster mouldings and cornices, all in good condition. Two strong rooms exist in the building, both with original safe doors and door furniture.

Historical

The building, constructed in 1916 (during the building boom of the early decades of this century in Port Pirie) was commissioned by the AMP Society who occupied the building until 1973 when it was used by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is now occupied by the Department of Labour and several other small businesses on the first floor.

The building represents the expansion of the AMP and its need to establish an office in the growing town of Port Pirie.

References

Lester, Firth & Murton, Port Pirie Conservation Study, Dept of Urban & Regional Affairs, Adelaide

National Trust Files

LTO Records

SITE RECORD

Item No.: 6531-10988

former AMP Building
5 Norman Street
Port Pirie SA 5540

Location 5 Norman Street, Port Pirie

Map sheet 6531-20-j

AMG Reference

Description Two storey brick and stucco building with symmetrical Italianate facade. Arched door and windows on ground floor. Balustraded parapet and pediment topped with AMP motto and statuary.

Boundary

Land Description Section 38
CT 1062/76

LGA City Council of Port Pirie

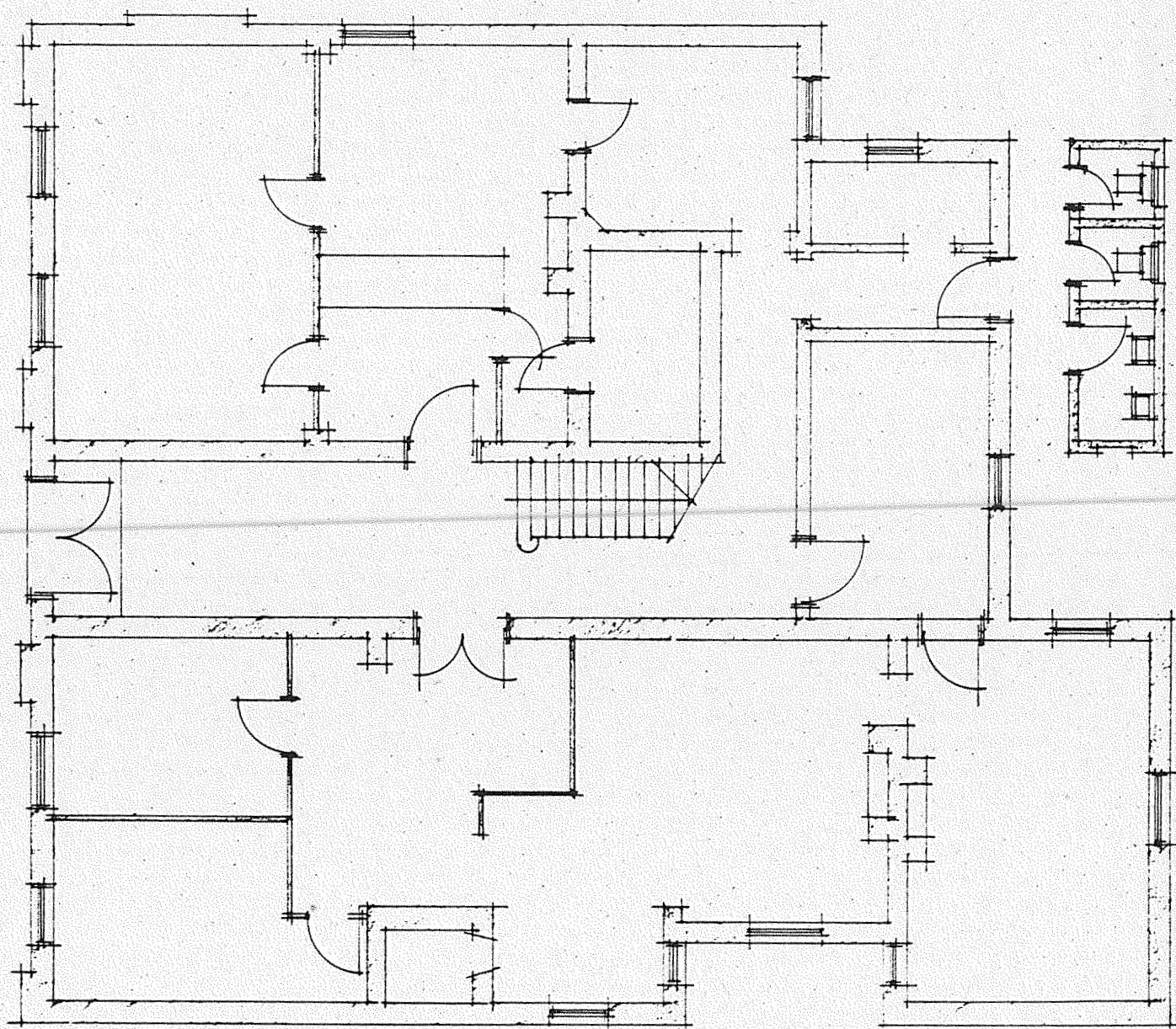
Owner Protopapas Pty Ltd
1 Alexander Street
Port Pirie 5540

Other Assessments

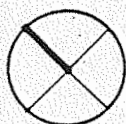
Heritage Status Nominated
National Trust File

Photographs

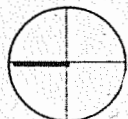
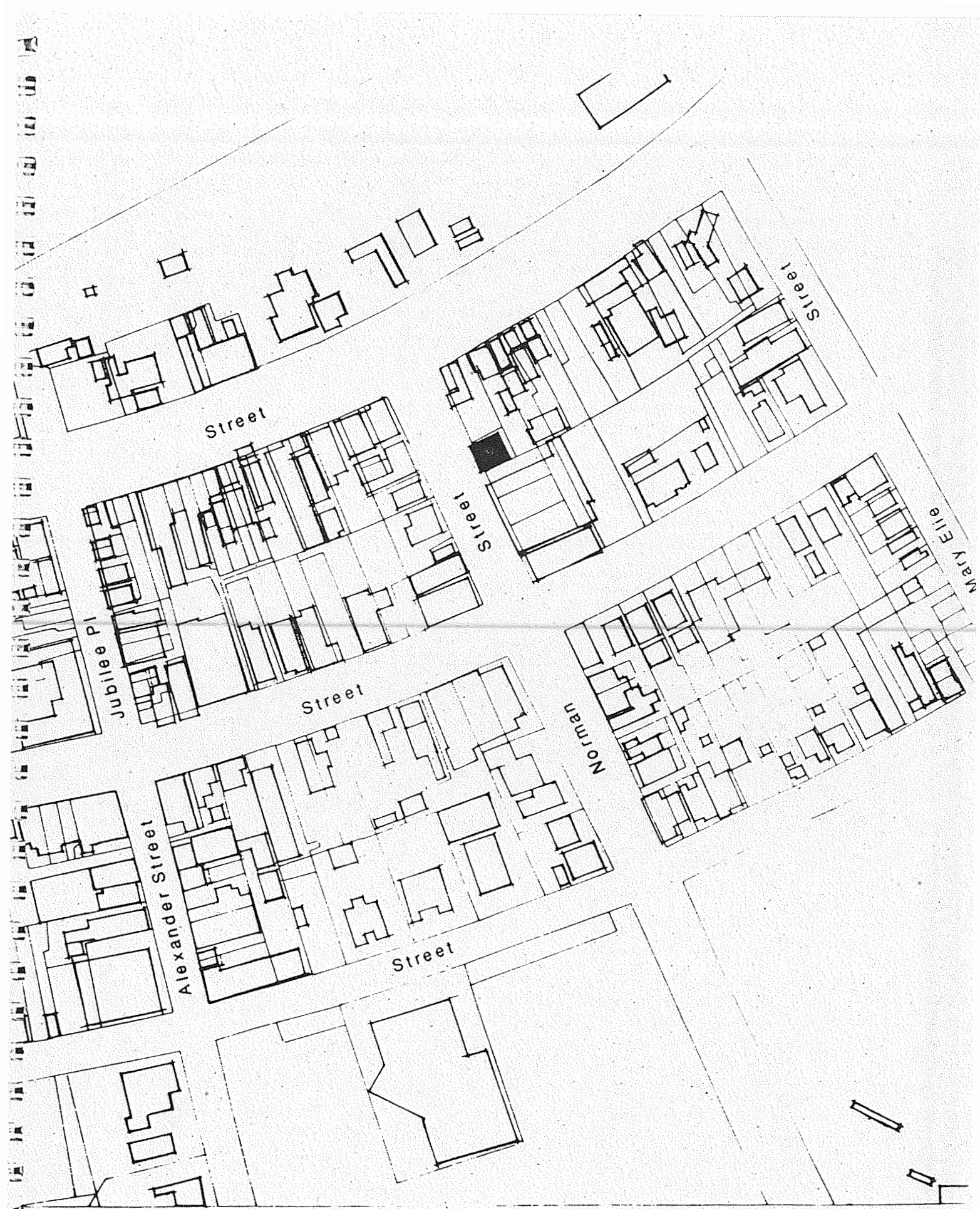
Report by Danvers Architects Pty Ltd



FLOOR PLAN



Former AMP Building
5 Norman Street, Port Pirie



**Former AMP Building
5 Norman Street, Port Pirie**



former AMP Building, 5 Norman Street, Port Pirie

PORT PIRIE HERITAGE STUDY

ITEM NO.: 066

ITEM NAME: AMP Building (former)

Former/other names:

Date: 1916

Architect:

LOCATION

No.: 5

Street: Norman Street

Location: Port Pirie

C.T.:

Map No.: Port Pirie

Section: Lt 38

CURRENT STATUS

State Heritage Register: Nominated

National Trust: Recorded

National Estate:

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Description:

Two storey brick and stucco building with symmetrical Italianate facade. Arched door and windows on ground floor. Ornate keystones. Balcony opening on first floor. Balustraded parapet and pediment, topped with AMP motto and statuary. Double hung sash windows. Rendered moulded quoins and surrounds. Double hung sash windows and sidelights and fanlight to front door.

History:

Built for the AMP Society in 1916. Later used by Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Significance:

Association with AMP. Landmark in the street.

References:

National Trust Files

pediment and entablature. Adelaide Steamship Company name on parapet and etched into glazing. Double hung sash side windows. Hipped and gable ended corrugated galvanised iron roof. Corrugated galvanised iron lean-to addition at rear.

History

This building, designed by the Port Pirie architect, J. Firmin Jenkins (responsible for several other buildings in the town) was completed in 1914, as the Port Pirie office for the Adelaide Steamship Company. Located in close proximity to the wharfs and like the Howard Smith building in Florence Street, epitomises the rise in significance of Pirie as a port facility.

Significance

Directly associated with the Adelaide Steamship Company and Port Pirie's rise in significance as a port.

5.3 former AMP Building, 5 Norman Street, Port Pirie

Description

Two storey brick and stucco building with symmetrical Italianate facade. Arched door and windows on ground floor. Ornate keystones. Balcony opening on first floor. Balustraded parapet and pediment, topped with AMP motto and statuary. Double hung sash windows. Rendered moulded quoins and surrounds.

History

Built for the Australian Mutual Provident Society in 1916. Later used by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Significance

Associated with the AMP and the commercial history of the town, this building forms an important landmark in the street.

Formal nomination reports, including statements of cultural significance for each of these buildings are enclosed separately.

The following item has also been nominated by the consultants for the State Heritage Register, but the owners were reluctant to allow a measure-up to be undertaken, and therefore there is no sketch plan of this building.

5.4 Federal Buildings, 102-104 Ellen Street, Port Pirie

Description

Two storey English bond brick building in Gothic style. Recessed shopfronts with timber detailing. Raked return verandah with timber posts. Ornate gables and parapet with wrought iron finials. Dentils under cornice. Corrugated galvanised iron roof. Windows formerly had canopies and the string course has been removed. Double hung sash windows to first floor with multi-paned top sections.

History

This building, designed by J. Firmin Jenkins, was constructed at the turn of the century and was named in commemoration of the Federation of Australia. At the time this building constituted a distinctive variation in architectural style to other structures in the town.

Significance

Unusual style of architecture in Ellen Street. The style and integrity of the shopfronts is virtually unique in the town.

