

To: South Australian Heritage Committee
From: Senior Historic Architect
Subject: REGISTER NOMINATION: POLICE STATION AND COURT HOUSE COMPLEX,
PORT WAKEFIELD
Date: 26 October, 1981

SUMMARY

This report has been prepared as a result of query by the District Council of Port Wakefield to the Director, Department of Lands, in regard to their future responsibility towards the building. The query was forwarded on to the Heritage Conservation Branch and this nomination resulted.

Historically, the Police Station and Court House are important because of their association with the first period of Port Wakefield's history when it functioned as the export port for copper ore from the Burra Mines. Although built in the year the copper teams (bullock and mule) were rerouted through Riverton to the new railway terminus at Gawler, thus by-passing the port, the reason for their construction was directly linked to the problems faced by the town during its "pioneering days".

Architecturally, the Police Station and Court House Complex is important as an early, and unusually austere, work of the Colonial Architect's Office (E.A. Hamilton). While the main building is a variation of a standard layout, the lineal arrangement of the complex is unusual. The building interior is in a bad state of repair but intact.

Environmentally, the Police Station and Court House Complex is important in maintaining the character of the street and the township.

The Integrity of the Police Station and Court House Complex is important as a basically intact example of this building type and its evolutionary development. While the condition of the building distracts somewhat, all of the details exist and the few alterations are obvious.

The Police Station and Court House Complex is on the National Trust Register as a Recorded Listing.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Police Station and Court House Complex be included on the Register of State Heritage Items and that it be categorised A3, H3, 3.1.



Barry G. Rowney
SENIOR HISTORIC ARCHITECT

26.10.81

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures Item POLICE STATION AND COURTHOUSE, PORT WAKEFIELD					
Age 1857	Theme	Office				
Period 1852-1883	Subject PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION - LEGAL & JUDICIAL	Region Lower North				
Building Type Police Station/ Court House	Style EARLY VICTORIAN	Status N. Tr. (R.L.)				
<u>Qualitative Data</u>		<u>Grading</u>				
<u>Component</u> <u>History</u>	<u>Comment</u>	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
1. Context:	Connected with the early history of Port Wakefield, "when it was dependent upon Burra copper. At that time, much of the population was a floating one of sailors, bullock drivers and muleteers". The Police Station was built to ensure order was maintained in the town as, "Riotous behaviour was encouraged by the absence of police". However, the station was not completed until the beginning of 1858 by which time the copper ore from Burra had been rerouted by land to the new railway terminal at Gawler and Kapunda, thus by-passing Port Wakefield.	*				
2. Person/Group:	Associated with the police presence in Port Wakefield.			*		
3. Event:	Police first stationed in Port Wakefield in April, 1855. Police Station and Court House completed in January, 1858.			*		
<u>Architecture</u>						
4. Architect/ Builder:	Colonial Architect's Office (E.A. Hamilton), Mr. L. Cherry - Builder first stage, Mr. J. Knowles - Builder second stage.	*				
5. Design:	Austere, early step in the evolution of a standard plan from the Colonial Architect's Office, main building symmetrical with police and judicial functions separated by a central entry, main building has rectangular form with skillion to the rear and the cells and stables being added to north side, unusual linear result.	*				
6. Construction:	Rubble stone walls with brick quoins at openings and corners, corrugated iron gable and skillion roofs.			*		
7. Interior:	Basically intact but in a bad state of repair; some upgrading of facilities has distracted from the original but not destroyed it. Most fixtures removed.			*		

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures					
Item POLICE STATION AND COURT HOUSE, PORT WAKEFIELD						
Component	Comment	Grading				
8. Representation:	Unusual austerity for its type and a rare example of the lineal approach to the plan.	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
<u>Environment</u>						
9. Continuity:	Built on the outside of a curving street, visually dominant, other houses and buildings of a similar simplicity, materials and scale.	*				
10. Local Character:	Port Wakefield is a dominantly single storey town in scale, town displays little frivolity in decoration or design, serious austere atmosphere.	*				
11. Landmark:	Position on curving street, lineal layout creates a large composition, simplicity somewhat counters its size, familiar local landmark.	*				
<u>Integrity</u>						
12. Alterations:	Form is intact except for the removal of one interior partition, front of main building has been rendered, several minor obvious internal alterations as a result of upgrading, vandalism.	*				
13. Condition:	No obvious major defects, deterioration of exercise yard wall, minor fretting of walls, broken gutters.	*				
14. Compatability:	Vacant at present.	*				
<u>Supplementary Information</u>						
15. Adaptation:	Within the context of its existing form and design, the complex has a very good opportunity for adaptation. The number of rooms is quite large and their sizes vary enough to provide for a range of functions. The main elevations should be restored but minor alterations and upgradings internally should be permitted.					
16. Interpretation:	The building has an obvious passive role in the town's character but also has a high potential for an active interpretative role. The District Council and others are considering this building for a museum.					
17. Current Situation:	The Police Station and Court House is owned by the Port Wakefield District Council. Although the building has not been well maintained and protected					
Evaluated By Ivar Nelsen	it is being considered as a venue for a museum. The District Council has requested the Branch's opinion as to its Heritage value to determine their					
Reviewed By Ivar Nelsen	Date course of action.					
South Australian Heritage Committee Categorization		Date				

I.E.S./D3/211081

South Australian Heritage Committee
Senior Historic Architect

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Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures		
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Age 1857	Theme	Office
Period 1852-1883	Subject PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION - LEGAL & JUDICIAL	Region Lower North
Building Type Police Station/ Court House	Style EARLY VICTORIAN	Status N. Tr. (R.L.)

Qualitative Data

Component

History

Comment

Grading

E VG AG FP NA

1. Context:

Connected with the early history of Port Wakefield, "when it was dependent upon Burra copper. At that time, much of the population was a floating one of sailors, bullock drivers and muleteers". The Police Station was built to ensure order was maintained in the town as, "Riotous behaviour was encouraged by the absence of police". However, the station was not completed until the beginning of 1858 by which time the copper ore from Burra had been rerouted by land to the new railway terminal at Gawler and Kapunda, thus by-passing Port Wakefield.

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2. Person/Group: Associated with the police presence in Port Wakefield.

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3. Event:

Police first stationed in Port Wakefield in April, 1855. Police Station and Court House completed in January, 1858.

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Architecture

4. Architect/ Builder:

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Register of State Heritage Items
ITEM EVALUATION SHEET
Buildings and Structures

Item POLICE STATION AND COURT HOUSE,
PORT WAKEFIELD

Comment

Presentation: Unusual austerity for its type and a rare example of the lineal approach to the plan.

Grading

E VG AG FP NA

Environment

Continuity: Built on the outside of a curving street, visually dominant, other houses and buildings of a similar simplicity, materials and scale.

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Integrity

12. Alterations: Form is intact except for the removal of one interior partition, front of main building has been rendered, several minor obvious internal alterations as a result of upgrading, vandalism.

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13. Condition: No obvious major defects, deterioration of exercise yard wall, minor fretting of walls, broken gutters.

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14. Compatability: Vacant at present.

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Supplementary Information

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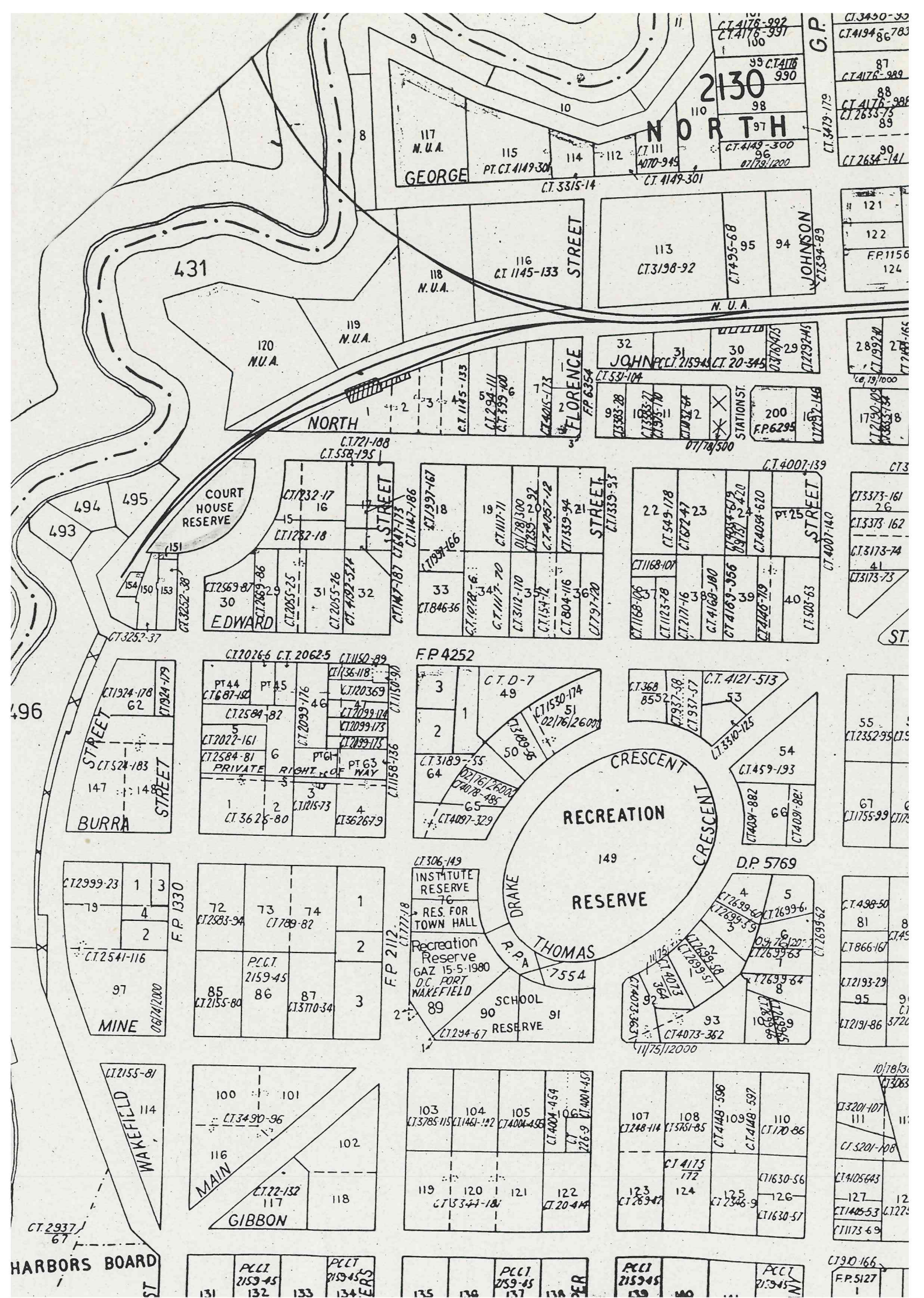
17. Current Situation: The Police Station and Court House is owned by the Port Wakefield District Council. Although the building has not been well maintained and protected

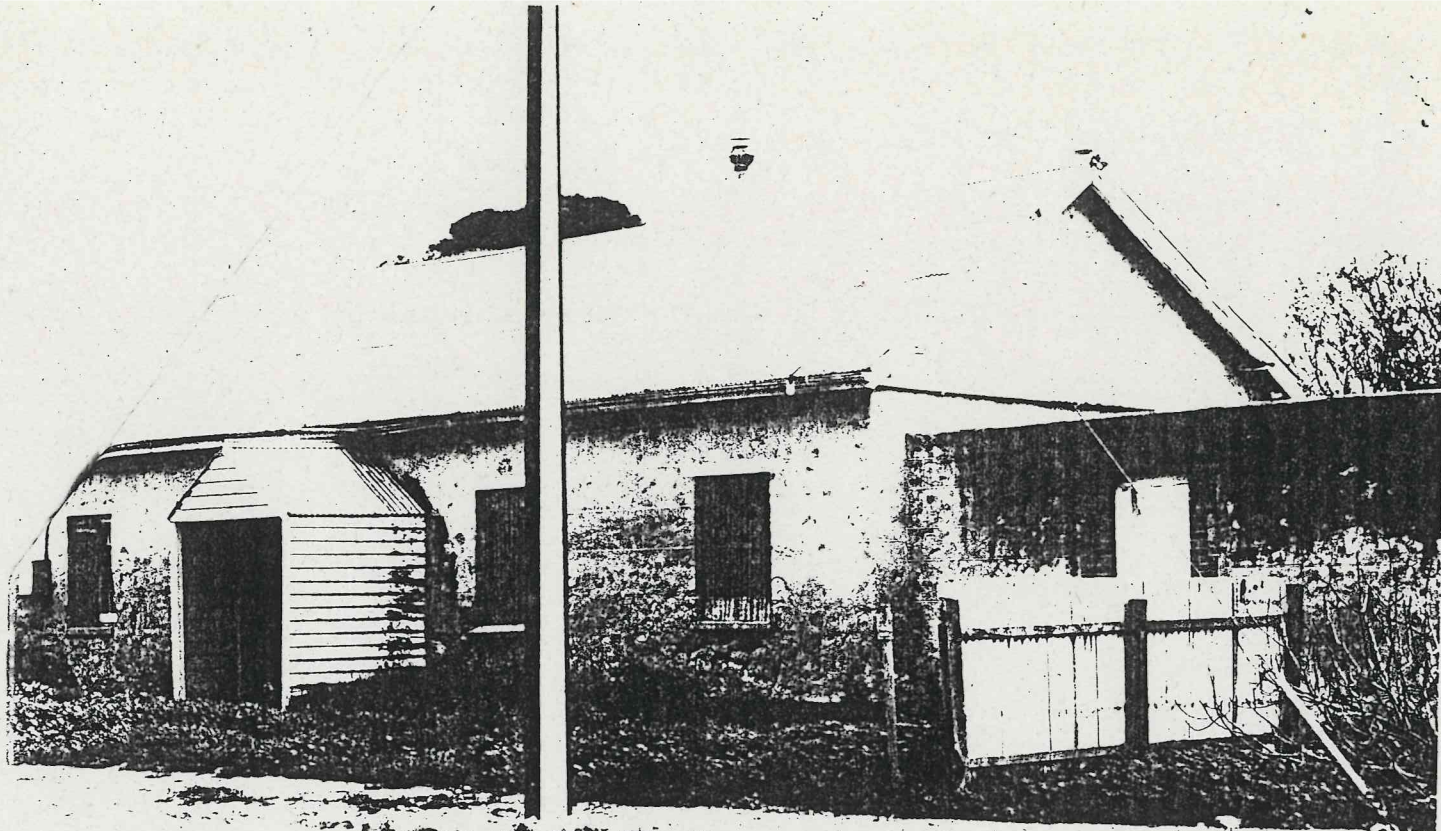
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South Australian Heritage Committee Categorization Date

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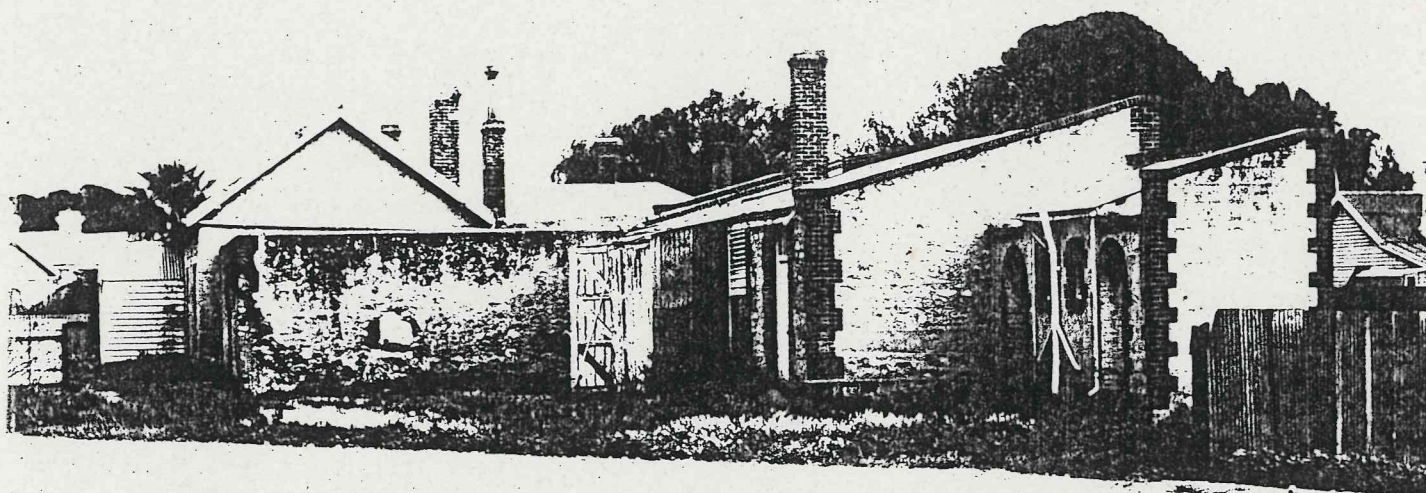




UM NO.
601

PORT WAKEFIELD POLICE
STATION & COURT HOUSE

SEP 81



UM NO.
601

PORT WAKEFIELD POLICE
STATION & COURT HOUSE

SEP 81



FILM NO.
401

PORT WAKEFIELD POLICE
STATION & COURT HOUSE

SEP 81



FILM NO.
401

PORT WAKEFIELD POLICE
STATION & COURT HOUSE

SEP 81



FIGM NO.
401

PORT WAKEFIELD POLICE
STATION & COURT HOUSE

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