

REGISTER NOMINATION REPORT

Date: 14/12/84

Item Reference: 6430-10139

METHODIST CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNEXE
WAT. ROO

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historically, the Chapel building has local significance because of its age. The Sunday School annexe has State significance as an extremely rare design for an educational institution, believed to be related to the Chrestomathia concept devised by Jeremy Bentham.

Architecturally, the Sunday School is a rare and notable example of design directly influenced by educational and social theory.

Environmentally, the building contributes passively to its immediate surroundings.

The integrity of the item is fairly good, with few alterations and adequate maintenance.

NOMINATION SOURCE/THREAT/OWNER

This report has been prepared as a result of Mrs. Rae Webling's expression of concern for the future of some of the old buildings in the Copper Triangle. This building is under no immediate threat and Mrs. Yvonne Thomas, the owner of the building, is anxious to have it on the State Heritage Register.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION BRANCH RECOMMENDATION:

..... *B. C. Reuning*
Manager

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorized A1, H1, H3, 3.1.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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Chairman

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6430-10139
	Item WALLAROO METHODIST CHURCH & SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNEXE	Prepared By: Laurie Parkes Barry Rowney

Supplementary Information

Mrs. Yvonne Thomas bought this building to save it from demolition, however, maintenance costs have forced her to put it on the market. She is looking for a buyer who will treat the building sympathetically.

The Branch is flexible in its attitude to the potential uses of the Chapel but feels strongly that the integrity of the Sunday School annexe should be respected.

History and Sources

The Methodist Church in Stirling St., Wallaroo is in itself primarily remarkable for its age (121 years) and the fact that it was one of the first churches built in Wallaroo. Its significance is enhanced by the Sunday School annexe built on to the Church in 1910 and it is this which warrants the building's inclusion on the State Heritage Register.

A Wesleyan Methodist Chapel was constructed of pine in 1861 and this was the first regular place of worship at Wallaroo Bay. In October 1862 it was moved to the site of the building under consideration and this was built in 1863 and enlarged in 1864. The sources don't disclose whether or not the Sunday School annexe at the rear of the building was the addition made in 1864 but this could be the case as Mr. E. De Garis was Sunday School Superintendent at the time.

It is a modest chapel, built of limestone with a gabled roof and gothic windows, designed to hold 300 people. Methodism in any of its forms never had the following in Wallaroo it had in the rest of the Copper Triangle and the manse built for a resident minister was, it seems, not used for that purpose, as Wallaroo was included in the Kadina-Wallaroo mines circuit.

The septagonal Sunday School annexe built on to the front right hand side of the church by A.A. Chandlers, a local building firm, in 1910 is a small intimate building which would have been used by the senior scholars, studying the bible using the rainbow system. This involved breaking up the books of the bible and apportioning each a colour. Progress was assessed competitively.

A lecturn is situated in front of the wall separating the Methodist Church from the Sunday School annexe and two tiers of stepped floors surround the lecturn, divided into small class spaces by wooden partitions. These obscure each class from all the others, but leave every member of each class visible not only to the teacher (usually an older more advanced student) but to the superintendent who could keep the entire group under constant surveillance. There is a striking correspondence between the internal structure of this building and the Panoptican design devised by Jeremy Bentham for the Chrestomathia school. The Chrestomathia was conceived as a

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History and Sources

technical school where students were divided into small groups, learning competitively in a system based on 'place capturing and extempore degradation' .

They were supervised by a pupil teacher in a room where the windows were so placed that nothing outside the building could be seen, the space so arranged that at no time could the female groups be seen by the male and vice versa (class groups at the Wallaroo Methodist Sunday School were also segregated by gender) and no student was obscured from the view of the presiding master.

The underlying precept of the Panopticon is discipline without coercion and it operates as a process of supervision and surveillance which "eliminates the tendency so natural amongst persons of any age subject to coercion to unite in a sort of standing conspiracy against those by whom they are kept under that pressure....."

Bentham maintained the source of all knowledge was experience, observation and experiment and he outlined the aims of his education system as :-

- "1. Securing to the possessor a proportional share of general respect.
2. Security against idleness, considered as a source of sensuality and mischievousness.
3. Security against ennui: viz. The condition of him, for want of something in prospect that would afford him pleasure, knows not what to do with himself.
4. Security for admission into agreeable intercourse with good company."

It requires no great epistemological feat to translate these aims into a religious idiom and many of the ideas which Lipsom Hancock (eldest son of H.R. Hancock) espoused in his campaign 'to win the world for Jesus through children' connote the same essential morality.

Hancock believed that world regeneration would come about through the medium of the Sunday School and he wrote a book in collaboration with William Shaw called "A Sunday School of Today", pleading the cause of scientific teaching and organization in Sunday schools.

He used the example of the Moonta Mines Sunday School to explain the benefits of graded departmental Sunday schools using teaching methods based on scientific experience and the careful study of child-psychology with an organizational structure that kept scrupulous records of each child's progress.

In 1910 Lipson Hancock was Vice President of the World Sunday School Union as well as General Manager of the Wallaroo and Moonta Mining and Smelting Company and the Wallaroo Sunday School is based on sketches and photographs of a similar building which Hancock saw in Pennsylvania.

The plans for the annexe were drawn up by Sylvester Martin, an engineering draftsman at Wallaroo Smelters, who was born in East Moonta and well known locally as a gifted and accomplished musician and choir conductor.

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History and Sources

We are extremely fortunate in having the original plans of the Sunday School Annexe which were given to us by Mrs. Valerie Grierson, Mr. Martin's daughter. Mrs. Grierson's help has been invaluable.

I would also like to acknowledge the help of Mrs. Maureen Stephens of Kadina, Mrs. Rae Webling of Kadina and Mrs. Yvonne Thomas, current owner of the Wallaroo Methodist Church.

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History and Sources

The Kadina and Wallaroo Times described the building (30/7/1910) as the only one of its kind in South Australia and alleged that there was only one building similar to it in Australasia.

Without further research, which is beyond the scope of this report, the links between Jeremy Bentham's Chrestomathia School and the Wallaroo Methodist Sunday School can only be established as circumstantial. Nonetheless they are strong enough to warrant further research by interested scholars, and in the interests of this research I strongly recommend the Wallaroo Methodist Church for the State Heritage Register.

SOURCES

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- BENTHAM, J. : CHRESTOMATHIA : Being a Collection of Papers
explanatory of the design of an institution proposed to
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London 1816.
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The Journal of the South Australian Methodist Historical
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- LARQUEUR, T.W. : Religion & Respectability.
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V. 11. Adelaide 1914.
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Kadina & Wallaroo Times 1910.
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	Item WALLAROO METHODIST CHURCH & SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNEXE WALLAROO	Status -
Age 1863 & 1910	Subject Original Use: 0703 Church Present Use: 0000 Disused	Style -

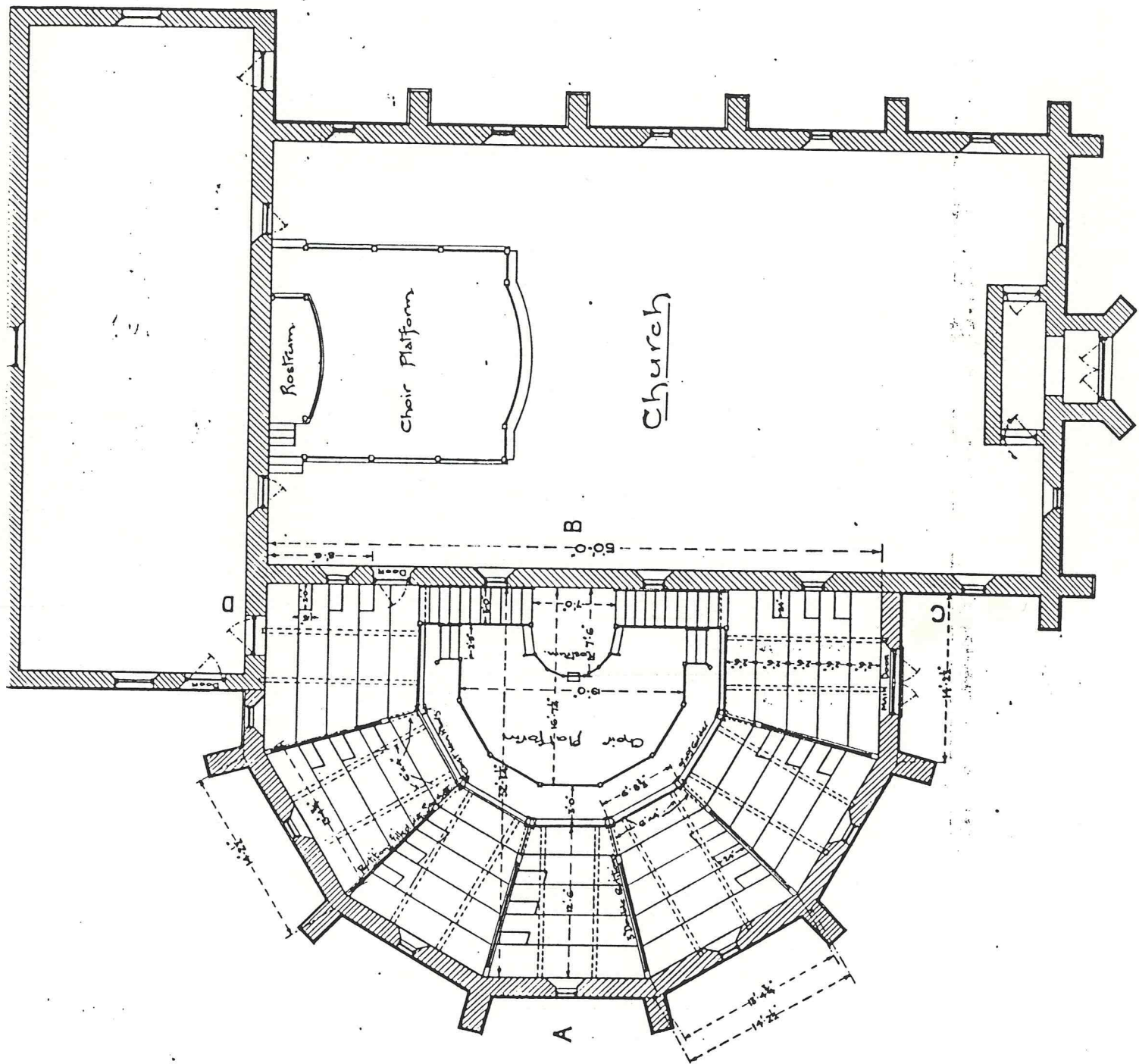
History

Architecture

Environment

Integrity

Context	The Main Church was one of the first places of regular worship at Wallaroo. The Sunday School Annexe could well be one of the only examples of the Panoptican design used for an educational institution in South Australia.	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
Person/Group	Lipson Hancock and Sylvester Martin	X				
Event	-		X			
Architect/Builder	Main body of the church unknown. Sunday School Architect Sylvester Martin. Builder A.A. Chandler.					X
Design	A Gothic-inspired building with a rectangular church and addition, remarkable septagonal radiating plan which is of particular historical and architectural significance.		X			
Construction	Random rubble limestone with brick quoins and dressings, all unfortunately painted yellow, now fading and miserable.	X				
Interior	The church interior and back room are of little note. The interior of the septagonal school room is remarkable for its timber finishes - diagonal boarding to the partitions, timber handrails and balustrades, and fine cast iron columns.			X		
Representation	The Church is of common representation, but the septagonal school room is rare, to date no other example is known in this State.		X			
Continuity	Of no special importance to the streetscape.			X		
Local Character	Is a good example of limestone construction adding to the general historic resource of buildings in Wallaroo.			X		
Landmark	Forms a good landmark in the immediate area.			X		
Alterations	Few alterations have been made, mostly painting. The plans and elevations show as built. The front spire and two flanking spires have been removed (no date).		X			
Condition	In a good condition, but some care will need to be taken soon.			X		
Compatibility	In private ownership, and has only been used recently for poetry readings. (The Church and back hall are unused)			X		



DETAIL DRAWINGS OF ADDITIONAL SCHOOLROOM TO CHURCH

SCALE - 8 FEET - 1 INCH



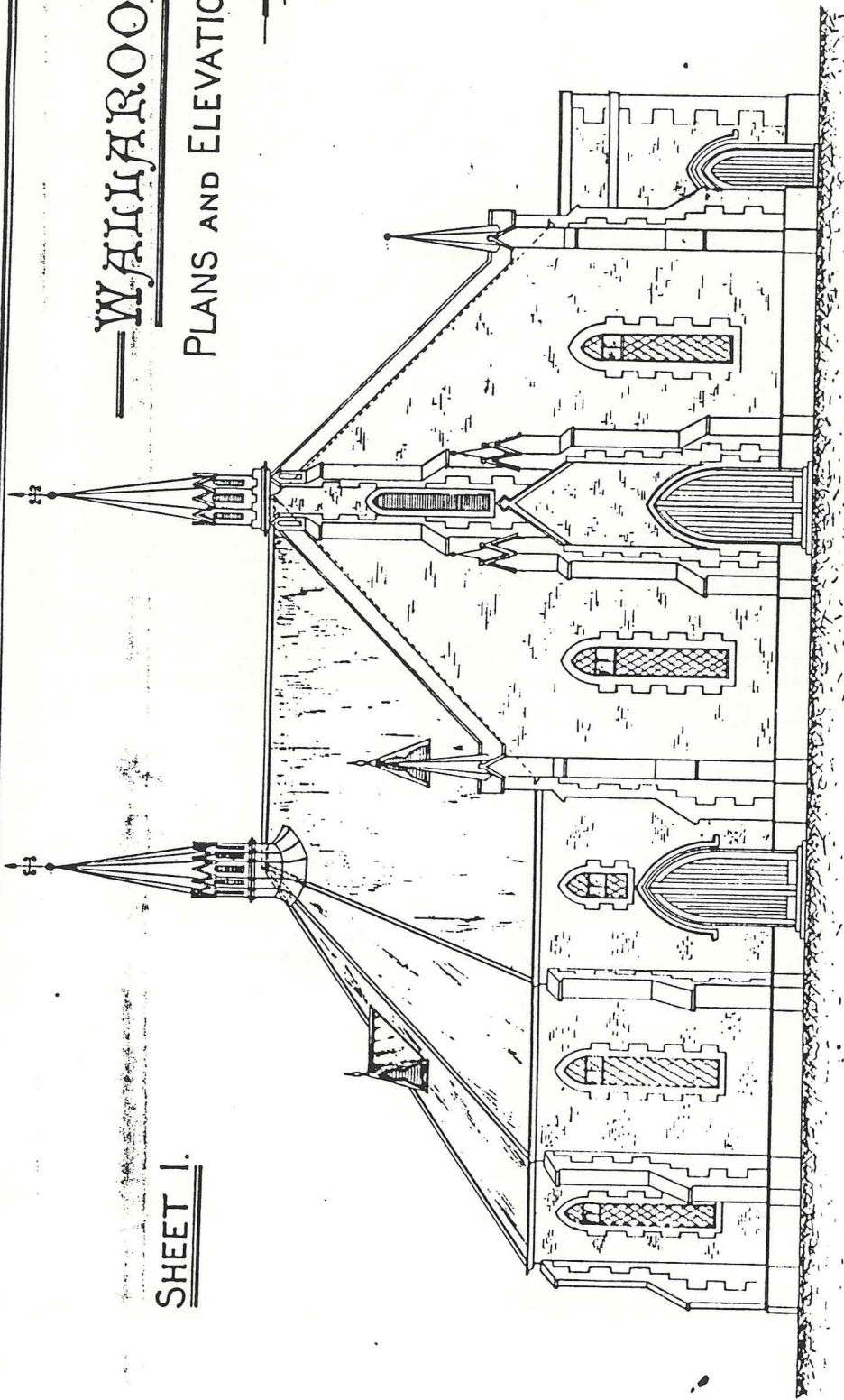
—Wrought Iron Plates Cld.

WAIHAROO MEMORIAL

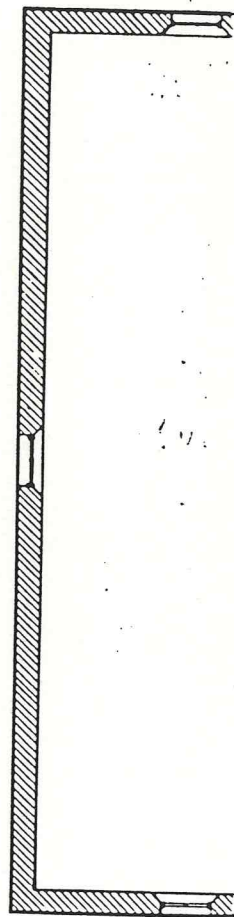
PLANS AND ELEVATIONS OF ADDITIONAL

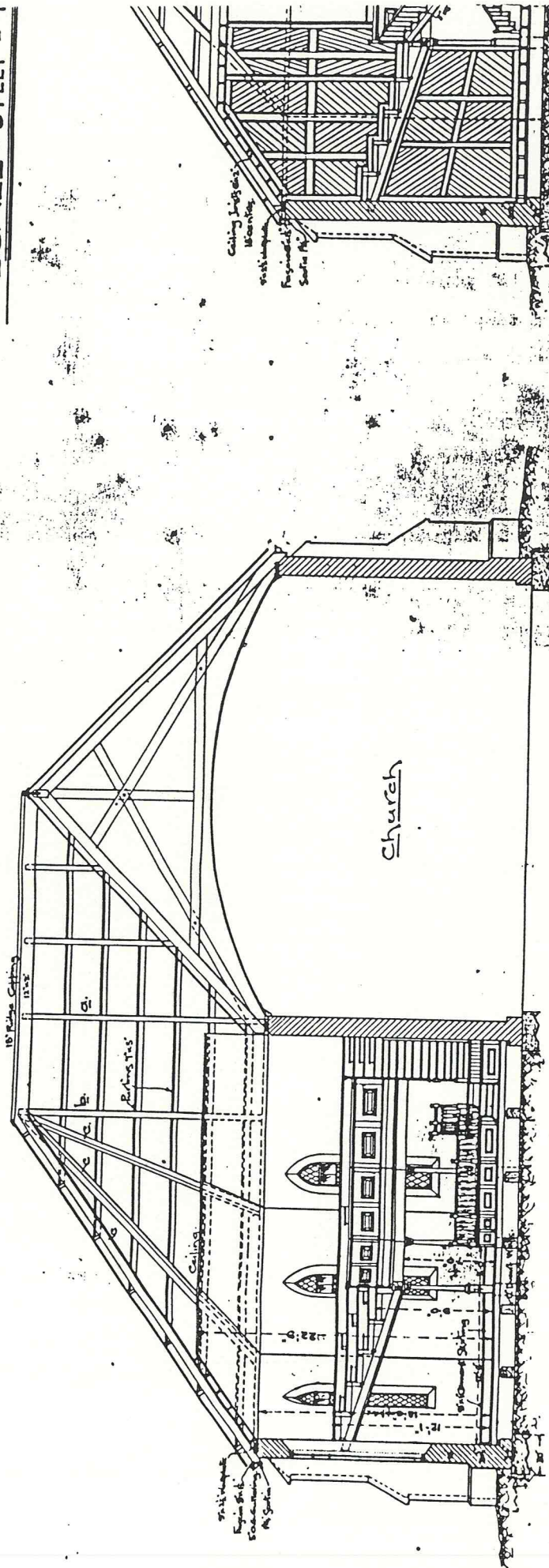
SCALE 8 FEET = 1

SHEET I.



FRONT ELEVATION

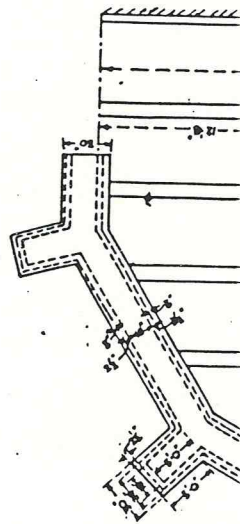




SECTIONAL ELEVATION AT A B

By J. S. G. G. G.

— SEC



Refer to the plan of the building for the location of the section.

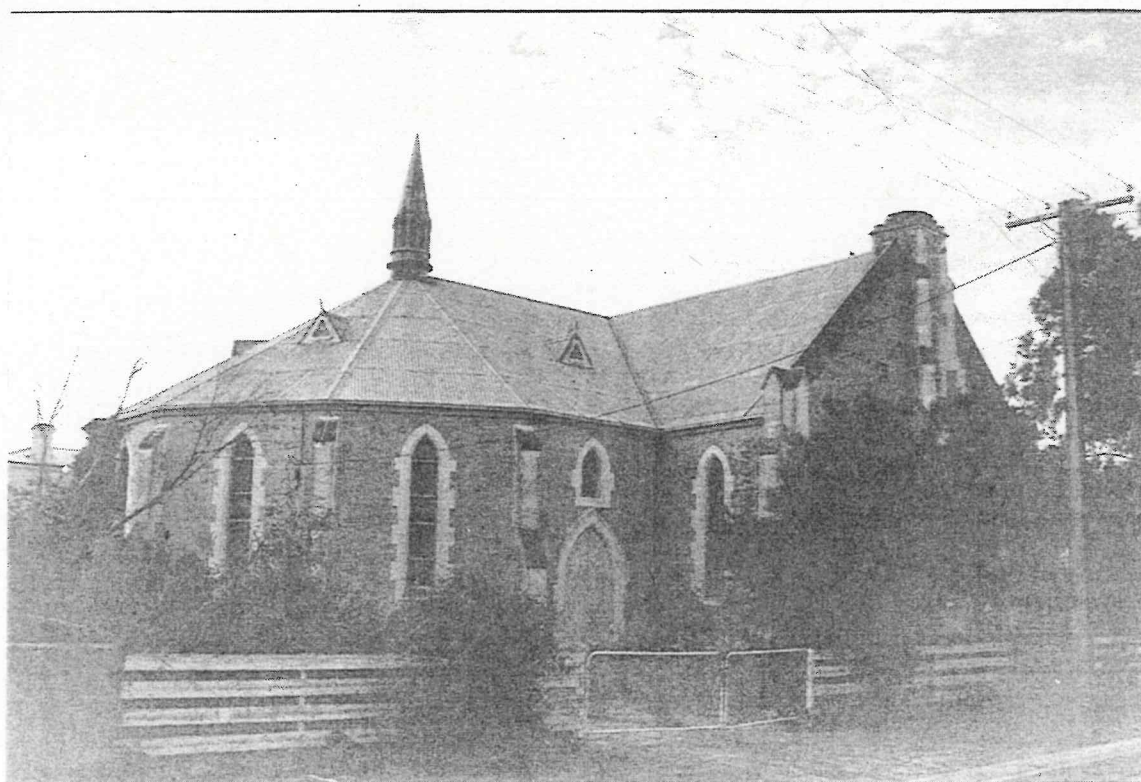
former Methodist Church**CC:264****LOCATION**

Address	8 Stirling Street, Wallaroo SA 5556
Land Description	Lot 791 & Pt Lot 80, Township of Wallaroo, Hundred of Wallaroo
Certificate of Title	5413/299

Owners	D R & C A Williams, PO Box 222, Moonta SA 5558
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State Heritage Status	Registered, 14 August 1986	SHR File No	10139
Other Assessments	National Trust of SA, Recorded (File No. 1908)		

Photograph No	04/27, 28
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*former Methodist Church*

former Methodist Church**CC:264****DESCRIPTION**

A Gothic inspired building, constructed of rubble limestone with brick quoins and dressings, with a rectangular church and addition. An attached school room is of a septagonal radiating plan which is of particular historical and architectural significance.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

The Chapel building has local significance because of its age. The Sunday School annexe has State significance as an extremely rare design for an educational institution, believed to be related to the Chrestomathia concept devised by Jeremy Bentham, and is a rare and notable example of design directly influenced by educational and social theory.

HISTORY

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A lectern is situated in front of the wall separating the Methodist Church from the Sunday School annexe and two tiers of stepped floors surrounding the lectern, divided into small class spaces by wooden partitions. These obscure each class from all the others, but leave every member of each class visible not only to the teacher (usually an older more advanced student) but to the Superintendent who could keep the entire group under constant surveillance.

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References

- Drew, G. J. 1989, *Discovering Historic Wallaroo, South Australia*, Department of Mines and Energy and the Corporation of the Town of Wallaroo, p. 26
- Wiltshire, R. n.d. *Copper to Gold: A History of Wallaroo 1860-1923*, Corporation of the Town of Wallaroo, p. 92







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