

## FLINDERS RANGES HERITAGE SURVEY

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**Institute**

**INPA-SR-06**

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### LOCATION

<b>Address</b>	52 Commercial Road, Port Augusta
<b>Owner(s)</b>	Corporation of City of Port Augusta
<b>CT Number</b>	185/58
<b>Section</b>	115
<b>Hundred</b>	Davenport
<b>Local Government Area</b>	Port Augusta

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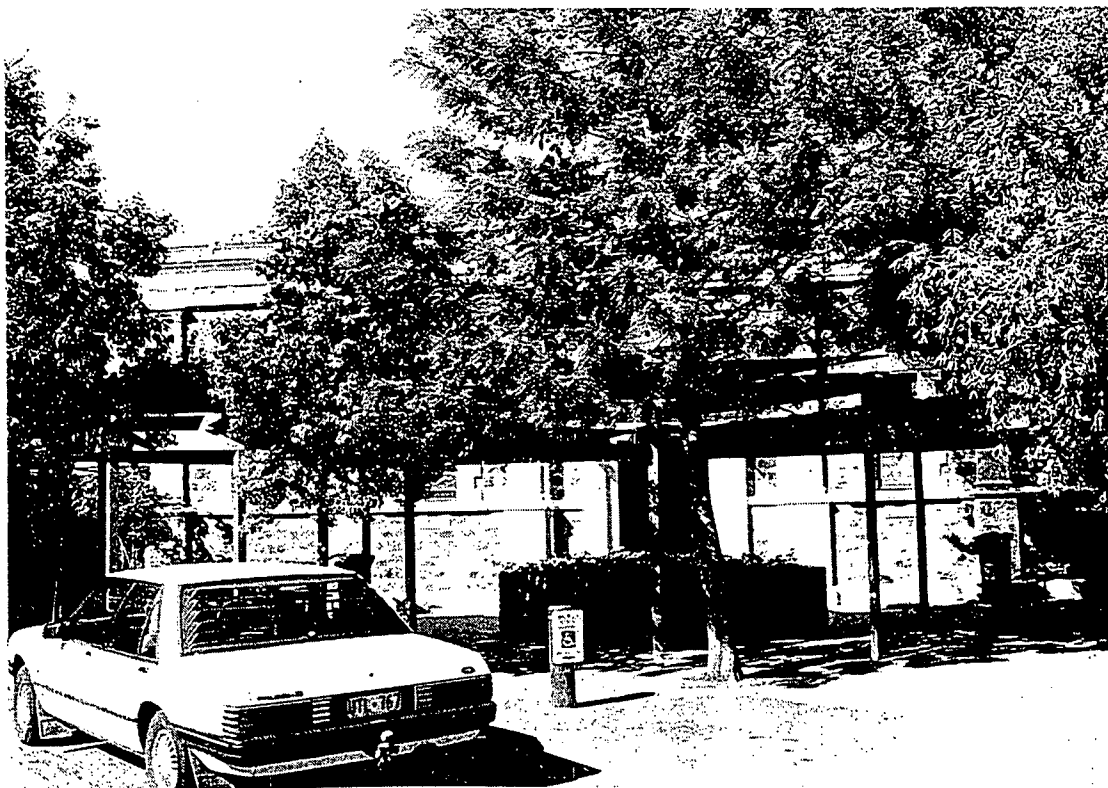
<b>State Heritage Status</b>	State Heritage Register — 10191 — 26 November 1981
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<b>Other Assessments</b>	Register of the National Estate National Trust Classified List — 481
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<b>Film/Neg Number</b>	3/12, 14
<b>Photographer</b>	B.G. Rowney

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### DESCRIPTION

A single storey building with heavy classical features and with a hipped and parapet roof form. The walls are of lined bluestone with rendered quoins and dressings. The windows are of double hung sash. There are Tuscan pilasters with variegated pedestals, and the roof is of corrugated galvanized iron.

There are metal framed and timber covered ways — Lions Club Pergola — to the footpath, also the Avis Woodcock Memorial Arbour. This contrasts markedly with the classical buildings.

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### HISTORY

While there were various attempts to form an Institute from at least 1863, it was not until 1872 that the idea was fully revived and a building planned. The land grant of 27 perches of land on Commercial Road was made available on 1 December 1873 to William R. Mortlock and Alfred Watts (both of Adelaide), Charles H. Gooch, Thomas M. Gibson and Thomas Young jnr of Port Augusta as first trustees. With £837 raised by locals and a government grant of £750, the building consisted of a large hall (able to accommodate 400), reading room, museum and library. The opening was in January 1876, and some time soon after this a room was let as a Corporation Office at £26-0-0 per annum. Cleaning and repair work was carried out in January 1891. By 1909 the Library contained 4,000 volumes.

While the Institute library closed in 1971, the building is currently used as a Teenage Club and continues to play an important part in the life of the Port Augusta community.

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### STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

This is an important building the historical significance of which lies in its identification with the Institute movement and the endeavour of local people to improve themselves. The size and scale of the building also ensure that it makes a major visual contribution to what is Port Augusta's main street and complements other buildings nearby.

The Institute was entered in the State Heritage Register on 26 November 1981.

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### RELEVANT CRITERIA

- (a) the building demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history, particularly the Institute movement;
- (g) the building has a special association with the life or work of an organisation of historical importance such as the Institute movement in South Australia.

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### REFERENCES

- Anderson, R.J., *Solid Town: The History of Port Augusta*, R.J. Anderson, Port Augusta, 1988, p. 69.
- Corporation of the City of Port Augusta, *1993 Directory*, Corporation of the City of Port Augusta, Port Augusta, 1993, p. 43.
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources, State Heritage Branch — 10191.
- Evans, E.L., *The Story of Port Augusta: historical booklet published in conjunction with Commonwealth Jubilee Celebrations 1951*, Commonwealth Jubilee Celebrations Port Augusta Executive Committee, Port Augusta, 1951, p. 51.
- Mortlock Library photographic collection, B.8446.
- Port Augusta Diamond Jubilee and State Centenary Celebrations Committee, *Historical Souvenir of Port Augusta 1876-1936*, Port Augusta, 1936, p. 61.
- Port Augusta Dispatch*, 23 January 1891 (cleaning and repairing).
- Robertson, J. Edward, *Prosperous Quorn and Port Augusta, The Seaside Resort of South Australia*, J. Edward Robertson, Adelaide, 1909, p. 14.
- State Records — Research Note 593.
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**Site Surveyor**

B.G. Rowney

**Date(s) of Survey** 11.2.1994