

To: South Australian Heritage Committee
From: Senior Historic Architect
Subject: REGISTER NOMINATION -
POLICE STATION AND COURTHOUSE, PORT LINCOLN
Date: 22 March 1982

Summary

This report has been prepared as part of the South Australian Heritage Committee's programme of evaluating National Estate Items. This item was deferred in December, 1978, pending a broader view of Police Stations within the State. Sufficient information has now been collected to make a comment on this item.

Historically, the Police Station and Courthouse is not very important. It was built twenty-three years after the area was settled, replacing an earlier (1855?) building which later became the Port Lincoln Gaol (now demolished). This building represented the Government's authority in the region.

Architecturally, the Police Station and Courthouse illustrates the formal lines and quality of construction which was typical of the work emerging from the Colonial Architect Office. The building was built from the same plans as the Police Station and Courthouse in Melrose, and this more complete building is already on the Register of State Heritage Items.

Environmentally, the Police Station and Courthouse is an attractive reminder of the Port's early years. Although it is strategically placed near a busy corner, generally it is not visually dominant.

The Integrity of the building is reasonable and it is still being used as a Courthouse. However, many of the alterations are unsympathetic and the original Courtroom fixtures have been removed.

The Port Lincoln Police Station and Courthouse has a Classified Listing from the National Trust and is on the National Estate Register.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Police Station and Courthouse, Port Lincoln, be placed on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorized A2, A3, H3. Features of particular significance are the front and side facades and roof forms.


Barry G. Rowney

LB:JD

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures Item POLICE STATION AND COURTHOUSE PORT LINCOLN.	
Age 1862	Theme	Office
Period 1852-1883	Subject PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION - LEGAL AND JUDICIAL	Region Eyre Peninsula & Far West Coast
Building Type Police Station & Courthouse	Style EARLY VICTORIAN	Status N. Tr. (Cl.) N.E.R.
<u>Qualitative Data</u> Component		Grading E VG AG FP NA
Comment		
1. Context:	Tangible reminder of efforts made by the South Australian Government to expand its central judicial system and to offer police protection in remote places.	*
2. Person/Group:	Not yet established.	*
3. Event:	Not yet established.	*
<u>Architecture/Engineering</u>		
4. Architect/Builder:	Colonial Architect's Department - Architect	*
5. Design:	Symmetrical design with Police and Judicial functions either side of a projecting entry, asymmetrical verandah, gable roof with gable over projection, exercise yard and cells at rear, attractive building, link in the development of Police Stations.	*
6. Construction:	Ashlar pointed stonework with protruding quoins and door/window surrounds, corrugated iron gable roof.	*
7. Interior:	Relatively plain surface finishes, original Courtroom fixtures have been removed.	*
8. Representation:	Same building was repeated at Melrose, obvious step in the development of Police Stations, obvious Government building.	*
<u>Environment</u>		
9. Continuity:	Part of a Government group of buildings, it is dwarfed by its neighbours, and partially hidden by vegetation.	*
10. Local Character:	Does not contribute to the local character of the area, not visually dominant.	*
11. Landmark:	Historically a well-known and familiar landmark.	*

South
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1978-80

Register of State Heritage Items
ITEM EVALUATION SHEET
Buildings and Structures

Item POLICE STATION AND COURTHOUSE
PORT LINCOLN

Component

Comment

Grading
E VG AG FP NA

Integrity

12. Alterations: Form basically intact, tiles added to roof
Courtroom fittings removed, rear of the
building with cells etc. has been altered
several times.
13. Condition: Building is in good structural condition.
14. Compatibility: Presently ysed as a Courthouse

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Supplementary Information

Adaptation: Because of its size, the building has limited potential
for adaptation. The front and side facades of original
1862 building should be preserved in any proposals.

Interpretation: The Police Station and Court has an excellent interpretation
potential for the region's Law and administration history.

Current Situation: The building is presently maintained by the Public
Buildings Department. It is still used as a Courtroom
and is under no known threat.

Evaluated By

Lothar Brasse
Consultant Architect

Date 18.3.82

Reviewed By

Ivar Nelsen

Date

South Australian Heritage Committee Categorization

Date

I.E.S./D3/211081

HISTORICAL RESEARCH: POLICE STATION AND COURTHOUSE

Port Lincoln was discovered and named by Matthew Flinders in 1802. The area - well-known for its abundant fresh water supply - was frequented by whalers long before the first settlers arrived there in 1839.

Early conflicts with the natives were frequent and the fatal spearing of young Francis Tapley Hawson created a tense and hostile atmosphere which was to continue for many years.

Alexander Tolmer, the energetic trooper and relentless pursuer of criminals, was sent to the Port Lincoln district in May, 1849, with strict orders to establish two outstations there - one near Lake Newlands and the other at Franklin Harbour.

In his reminiscences, Tolmer briefly mentions the 'old' Port Lincoln Police Station (now demolished) which was probably the same building used as the Port Lincoln Gaol, after the new station and courthouse was completed in 1862.

The 'new' building was, in essence, identical to the one built at Melrose and similar to the one at Port Wakefield - the front elevation has a gabled entrance at its centre, flanked by the courthouse and police station wings to its left and right respectively.

Sources:

S.A. Archives GRG 38/15

Alexander Tolmer: Reminiscences, VI & V2., 1882.

Lothar Brasse
Consultant Architect

LB:JD

6028-10219
Court House
Port Lincoln by
Collwell & Finch,
1973

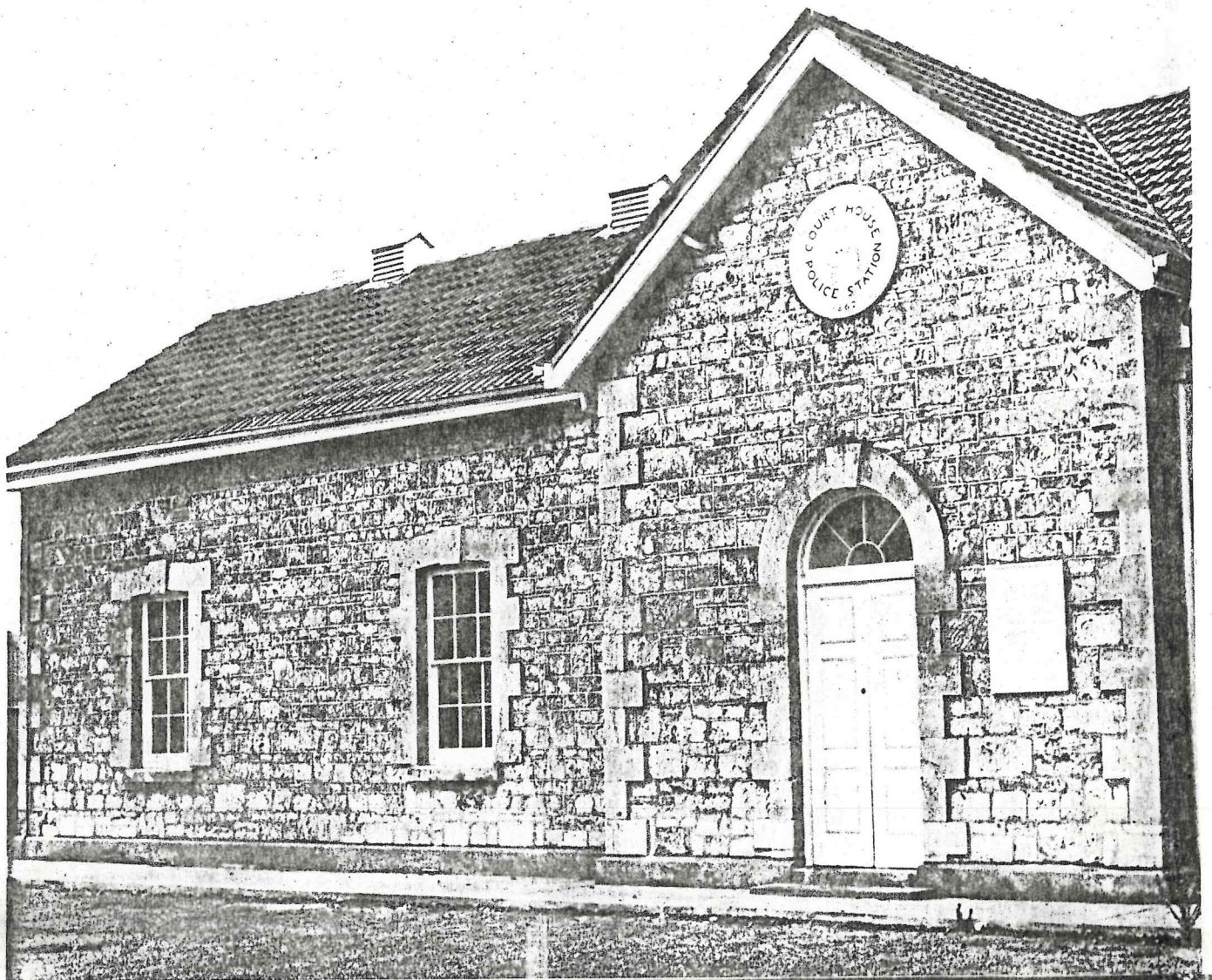
Collwell & Finch - 1973

COURT HOUSE, Port Lincoln

Resident Inspector of Police for Eyre Peninsula, Justice of the Peace, and Special Magistrate Henry Holroyd, in reference to the original Court House, in Tasman Terrace, Port Lincoln, wrote in his memoirs: "I reported it unfit for use and after lengthy correspondence I was instructed to choose a convenient site upon which eventually the present handsome court house and other offices were erected. In order to preserve the record I had the year of its erection cut into stone, 1862."

This "handsome court house" now stands on the corner of Washington Street and Adelaide Place, Port Lincoln.

Constructed of local "Duck Pond" limestone, it once had a slate roof but this has been replaced with grey tiles. It is recorded that the building cost £1,086 plus £17 for extras.

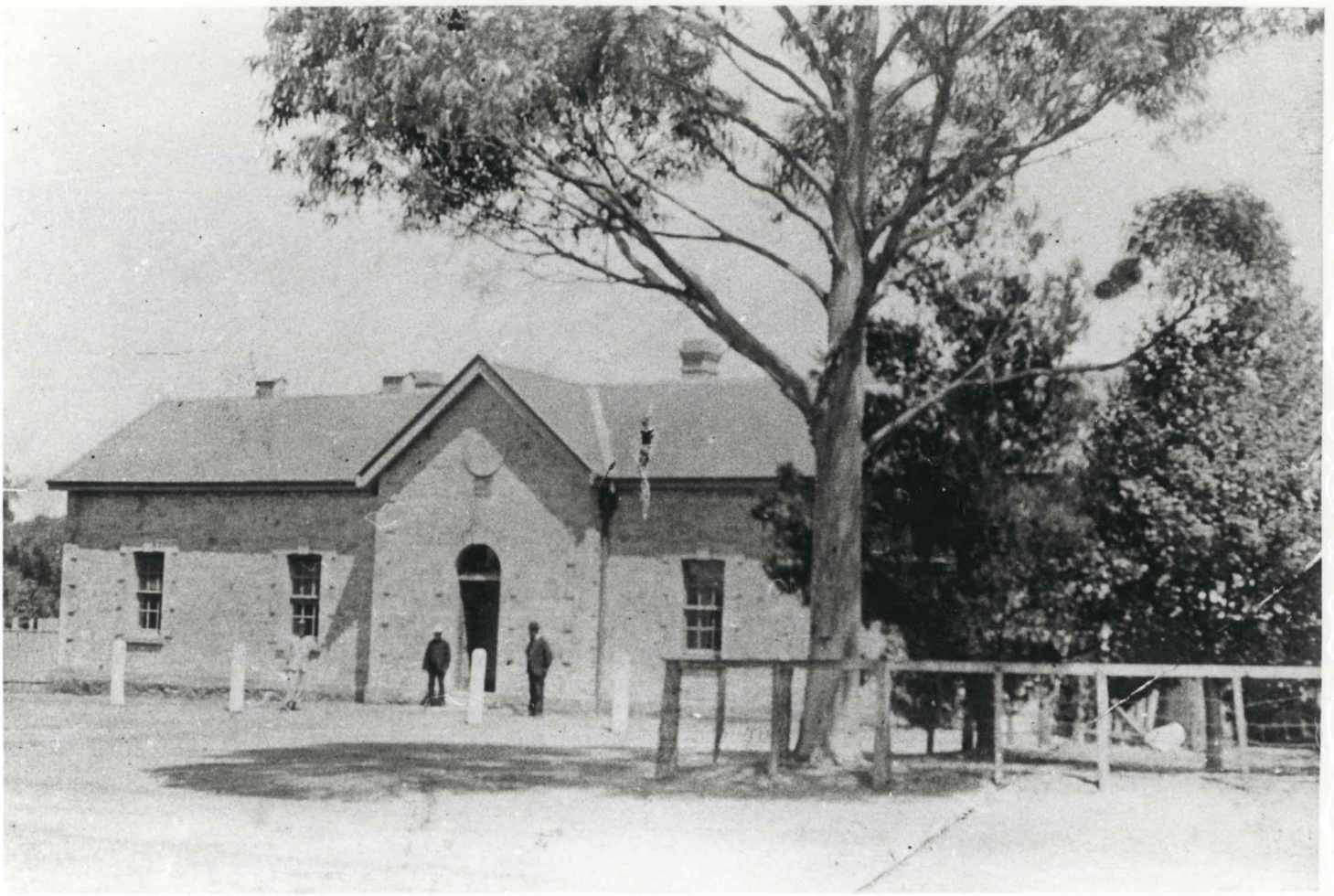




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PORT LINCOLN
POLICE STN & COURT HOUSE

FEB '81
John



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PORT LINCOLN
COURT HOUSE &
POLICE STATION