

BETTER HERITAGE INFORMATION SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with either the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978* or the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

The information contained in this document is provided in accordance with s14(6) and s21 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

REGISTERED NAME: Robe Institute

PLACE NO.: 10365

ALSO KNOWN AS: Robe Mechanics' Institute

ADDRESS: Bunganditj Country
Lot 130 Mundy Terrace
Robe SA 5276
CR 5647/289 T441801 A130
Hundred of Waterhouse

CONFIRMED IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE REGISTER:

24 March 1983

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Robe Institute was established as a Mechanics' Institute in 1862 and a bespoke building was erected for it in 1869. Originating in Britain, Mechanics' Institutes were organisations devoted to mass adult education and community engagement. This building demonstrates the rapid adoption and growth of Mechanics' Institutes in South Australia and their early embrace in the colony's South East during the mid-nineteenth century. It further demonstrates the social and cultural development of Robe as a key service town and port in the mid-nineteenth century.

RELEVANT/INDICATIVE CRITERIA (under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*)

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

Mechanics' Institutes originated in Britain and rapidly spread throughout the settler colonies, including South Australia. The Robe Institute demonstrates the rapid adoption and growth of Mechanics' Institutes in South Australia and their early embrace in the South East during the mid-nineteenth century. Mechanics' Institutes, or simply Institutes as they were commonly known as, were organisations devoted to the mass education of adult labourers. While initially aimed at educating skilled male workers, the services and educational programs were adapted to suit local needs and the people utilising the Institute's services gradually also expanded. South Australia's colonial founders and middle-class were attracted to institutes as they aligned with their desire to create an educated and self-supportive society, albeit based on their values and interests.

The first mechanics' institute opened in Adelaide in 1839. There were ten in the colony by 1855, the year the South Australia Institute was established. Thereafter, institutes began to proliferate across the colony, including in the South East. The Robe Institute, founded in 1862, initially operated from the local Presbyterian chapel room, before a land grant in 1866 from the colonial government enabled a bespoke building to be constructed, opening in 1869. While about 350 Institutes were established in South Australia, along with Naracoorte (1859), Penola (1860), Mount Gambier (1863) and Port MacDonnell (1864), Robe was one of the first towns in the South East to establish an institute and one of the earliest to have its own bespoke building.

The Robe Institute, along with other places such as Cemetery - Robe (SHP 12645) and St Mary's Star of the Sea Catholic Church (SHP 11642) demonstrates the social and cultural development of Robe as a key service town in South Australia during the nineteenth century. Robe was founded as a seaport town in 1846 and was gazetted as a port the following year. By the mid-1850s and 1860s, Robe had developed into one of the colony's most vital and lucrative ports. As it accumulated wealth, settlers from across the colony and abroad began to settle at Robe. Accordingly, demand grew for not only essential infrastructure, but also social and cultural institutions, like churches and schools. In response, a wave of construction followed, beginning in the late 1850s and continuing throughout the 1860s. The erection of the Institute building in 1869 was a part of this trend.

SITE PLAN

Robe Institute

PLACE NO.: 10365

Lot 130 Mundy Terrace, Robe



The Robe Insitutute with its various extensions, Lot 130 Mundy Terrace, Robe, SA 5276, CR 5647/289 T441801 A130, Hundred of Waterhouse.

N ↑

LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

Physical Description

The Robe Institute is located on the north-east corner of Smillie Street and Bagot Street, with an entrance facing south towards Smillie Street. The Robe Institute is a stone building comprised of a southern wing, built c.1869, in turn comprising three rooms and a central porch or vestibule, and a large hall. Both the southern wing and the hall are covered by hipped roofs clad in corrugated steel.

Additional features include:

- rendered walls,
- symmetrical southern façade with central entry door and flanking windows,
- parapet with decorative cornice to southern facade, returned around the western and eastern elevations,
- two decorative string courses to southern facade, returned around the western and eastern elevations,
- rendered quoins to façade entry door and window openings,
- single window opening to western elevation,
- three window openings and door opening to northern elevation of hall,
- segmental arched heads with keystones to entry door and all window openings,
- sash window frames to all window openings,
- three stone steps to main entrance door,
- fanlight above entrance door,
- two chimneys to southern wing,
- lean-to on hall western elevation (not significant fabric),
- two new structures adjoining eastern side (not significant fabric).

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- The original Robe Institute building (southern wing),
- The hall at the rear,
- All the building's original features, including the decorative stone surrounds, chimneys, segmented arches, keystones, parapets, string course, fanlight, etc.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- The various extensions located on the south-eastern and western elevations,
- The paint colour scheme.

History of the Place

The Mechanics Institute movement developed in Britain during the first half of the nineteenth century. The movement advocated for the creation of institutes as organisations devoted to the continued education of skilled male labourers. Such education was typically provided in the form of lectures and library services, usually in return for a subscription fee. Institutes soon spread to the Australasian colonies, including South Australia in 1838. Embraced by settlers as an essential civic service and adapted to local interests, institutes subsequently mushroomed across the colony, appearing in towns all throughout South Australia. In line with this trend, a Mechanics' Institute was established in Robe in 1862. Originally operating from the Free Presbyterian Chapel, the Robe Institute eventually relocated to a bespoke building in 1869, and continued to operate there until 1981, when the Institute Committee was dissolved, and the building transferred to the District Council of Robe.

Mechanics' Institutes

George Birkbeck, a British physician and lecturer initially based in Glasgow is credited with devising the institute movement. In 1800, at a time when the First Industrial Revolution (1760-1840) was well underway, Birkbeck commenced delivering free lectures on scientific topics to skilled labourers, commonly referred to as 'mechanics'. Birkbeck believed that these mechanics needed to be imparted with the latest scientific and technical knowledge so that they could be at the vanguard of industrial development. By 1804, his lectures attracted upwards of 500 attendees.¹

Birkbeck relocated to London in 1804 and later assisted in establishing the London Institute in 1809. While the London Institute was intended for religious Dissenters barred from Oxford and Cambridge rather than working people, it was nonetheless focused on the 'mechanical arts'.² Thirteen years later, the first formal mechanics' institute was established in Edinburgh as Edinburgh School of Arts on 16 October 1821. Two years later, Mechanics' institutes were opened in Glasgow, Liverpool, and London. In 1824, Birkbeck was appointed as the president of the latter.³

Political radicals and social reformers were early adopters of the idea of mechanical institutes and were responsible for advancing it as a movement. They believed that the provision of education to skilled male labourers would empower and uplift them. Socialists further hoped mechanics' institutes would bolster the nascent labour movement. However, the movement was quickly embraced by social elites and the middle-class, who saw the education of the masses as key to alleviating poverty and preventing crime, which they attributed to ignorance rather than material deprivation and exploitation. In this sense, education was treated as a means to cultivate a disciplined working class modelled on middle-class values.⁴ While there was some initial hesitancy surrounding such institutes owing to their early associations with radicalism, the 'movement's success' eventually came 'at the expense of its original

aim as an instrument of political, social and economic emancipation'. Instead, 'mechanics' institutes were, on the whole, supporters of the existing order'.⁵

In practice, mechanics' institutes were established for a variety of reasons and were in part successful due to their ability to adapt to local interests.⁶ Although leadership positions were typically held by prominent and wealthy individuals, working people did support and patronise mechanics' institutes.⁷ Such institutes offered access to libraries, reading rooms, and regular lectures, usually in return for a subscription fee. Following the establishment of the London Mechanics' Institute and a campaign to publicise working class education, the movement became national in scope, spreading rapidly with over 300 mechanics' institutes operating across Britain by 1841.⁸

The movement quickly expanded to the Australian colonies and in 1827, the first Australian institute opened in Hobart. Sydney followed in 1833, as did the other colonies over the next several decades.⁹

South Australia's planners had mechanics' institutes in mind before the colony was even founded. Talbot highlights that:

[i]n general the planners of the colony of South Australia were wealthy, radical, in favour of education for the populace, and familiar with mechanics' institutions. By the mid-1830s, mechanics' institutes were an accepted and expanding element of British cultural life and their members would be among those likely to take an interest in the establishment of a new colony.¹⁰

A range of education and literary organisations were established as early as 1834, most notably the South Australian School Society and the South Australian Literary Society, which later became the South Australian Literary and Scientific Association. The former was devoted to non-denominational childhood education and the latter was devoted to adult education, though primarily for middle-class people.

The Adelaide Mechanics' Institute was established in 1839, only a few years after the establishment of the colony. The Institute floundered in its early years but had to be revived in 1847. It merged with the South Australian Subscription Library the next year to become the South Australian Library and Mechanics' Institute. Less than a decade later, the colonial government passed the *South Australian Institute Act 1855*. The Act established the South Australian Institute, which was designed to 'comprise a Public Library and Museum, and, by means of public lectures, classes, and otherwise, to promote the general study and cultivation of all or any of the various branches or departments of art, science, literature and philosophy'.¹¹ It also went on to serve as the de facto central body that supported smaller local institutes,¹² ten of which already existed prior to the Act.¹³ Part of its purview was to administer and distribute grant funding that had been supplied by the colonial government. Over the next

several decades, mechanics' institutes proliferated across South Australia, going on to number around 350.¹⁴

Establishing Robe

Guichen Bay in the South East of South Australia forms part of the traditional lands of the Bungandij people, who have been present in the area for at least 30,000 years.¹⁵ Europeans first charted the coastline of the region in 1802 during the Baudin and Flinders expeditions and sealers established a presence at Guichen Bay in 1831.¹⁶

European exploration of the South East took place from 1839 and settlement began as early as 1840.¹⁷ Much of the South East was initially settled by pastoralists and by 1847 approximately half of the region was held under pastoral licences. As primary production expanded the colonial government began to provide a series of government towns as service and staging centres. The provision of ports to ship goods to market was also viewed as essential and Robe was established in 1846, to provide a port for the burgeoning wool clip then being obtained from the South East.¹⁸ Robe was officially declared as a port by the Government in 1847.¹⁹

Situated towards the south of Guichen Bay, the town at Robe (or Robetown) went on to become the first major town of the South East.²⁰ Robe became the administrative centre of the region when a Government Resident was appointed in 1846.²¹ Over the next two decades, Robe developed as an international port that serviced the local wool industry and import and export markets. It also facilitated the arrival of thousands of immigrants, including British and Irish people, as well as Chinese prospectors during the Victorian gold rush.²²

The Robe Mechanics' Institute

In early 1862, a public meeting was conducted in Robe to create a local mechanics' institute. Organised and chaired by A. Grace, Esquire, key positions were filled during the meeting, including the Secretary and Treasurer. Three Trustees were also elected, as were six Committee members. Additionally, rules and by-laws were partially approved during the meeting and £98 in subscription fees amassed.²³

By 5 March 1862, the *South Australian Register* reported that the Committee had subsequently convened multiple times and had since 'rented a large and commodious room as [a] reading-room and library'. This room was in the Free Presbyterian Chapel on Sturt Street, located towards the rear of the township and used as a community space since it was erected in 1858. The *Register* further noted that the Committee had 'engaged the services of a librarian, ordered a supply of newspapers and periodicals, selected a quantity of books to be purchased, and [had] applied to the Governors of the South Australian Institute for a grant of money to supplement what [had] been subscribed here'.²⁴ The reading room was opened to

subscribers on 13 March.²⁵ The library followed on 7 April, giving subscribers access to its collection of around 300 books.²⁶

As indicated by the above, the Robe Mechanics' Institute was subscription based, at least initially. Fees were set at £1/1s per annum or 10s/6d for half a year. 'Tickets' were dated either from January or July each year. From the outset, the Institute had a diverse membership that spanned the socioeconomic make-up of the area and which may have also included women.²⁷

In addition to subscription fees, the South Australian Institute, which served as a parent organisation, provided material and financial support to affiliated local institutes, including Robe's. For instance, only a few months after the Robe Mechanics' Institute opened the Governors of the South Australian Institute awarded it a grant of £40.²⁸

The Robe Mechanics' Institute flourished over the next few years, attributing its success to the 'hearty co-operation of the inhabitants, the liberality of the Government, and the valuable assistance rendered by several gentlemen in the gratuitous [free] delivery of lectures'. The library's collection had increased to 578 volumes, about 44 books were in circulation each week, and public lectures on a variety of topics were frequent and well attended.²⁹ Some of these lectures were so popular that they had to be held at the Robe Hotel, owing to the spatial limitations of the Free Presbyterian Church where the Robe Institute was located.³⁰

Building the Robe Institute

Aware that the Robe Mechanic's Institute was outgrowing its current premises, the Committee initiated plans to construct and relocate to a purpose-built facility. Their first major step was to lobby the colonial government for a land grant, which they prepared in August 1865.³¹ In March 1866, the government awarded the Institute a triangular plot on the corner of Smillie Street and Bagot Street, land originally designated by Robe's surveyors as the 'Village Green'.³²

The next step was to raise funds to construct a bespoke institute building at the site. In 1867, the Committee decided their building needed to include an 'amusement room', for 'chess, draughts, &c., and where coffee could be obtained', as well as a large hall for 'public meetings, lectures, concerts, assembly balls, &c.'. ³³ The Committee estimated that the institute's construction would cost £800. It predicted that subscribers, the community, and the South Australian Institute could collectively contribute about £500. The Committee petitioned the colonial government to raise the remaining £300.³⁴

The petition, signed by 126 people, offered general details about the Robe Institute in 1867, including the size of its library, the services it provided and the number of subscribers. It reported that the Institute's library had almost 1,000 volumes and eighteen periodicals, provided recreation in the form of 'lectures, concerts, and

readings' and had close to one hundred subscribers. It also outlined its limitations, arguing that its current premises were 'small and inconveniently located' and due to its distance from Adelaide was 'debarred from the assistance of lectures, and from other aids enjoyed by most [other] country institutes'.³⁵

The petition also shows traces of the movement's broader ideology, and shows emerging tensions. It stresses that the Institute was established and advanced by a 'spontaneous movement on the part of the working man' and that 'working men [were] anxious for the erection of a new institute centrally located on the land given by the Government'. It also mentions that '[g]ames of chance' and 'intoxicating liquors' would be prohibited and an 'amusement room' would 'greatly tend to promote the habits of sobriety amongst those who have now no other place of resort than the public house'.³⁶

While working class people were involved with the Institute and utilised its services, it is likely that it had been founded and was governed by Robe's middle-class, as had been the case elsewhere.³⁷ The petition's emphasis on sobriety is in keeping with the temperance movement, which flourished at this time and the desire of the middle-classes to moderate and improve 'working-class' behaviour. Even so, the petition captures the movement's traditional focus on working men and their education, regardless of whether it was driven from the grassroots or not. This approach may well have been strategic.

The petition was presented to Parliament on 11 September 1867. After a brief discussion, which showed widespread support for the institute movement,³⁸ the House of Assembly agreed to provide the £300.³⁹ Shortly after, W. T. Gore, Esquire, was commissioned to prepare plans and specifications for the Robe Institute. The plans 'included a hall, with a retiring room and porch'. Messrs Savage and Kerr won the tender to construct the building for £1066/6/6.⁴⁰ This figure was over £200 more than what had been anticipated.

Construction began on 1 October 1868, over a year later.⁴¹ A ceremony was held to mark the occasion and lay the foundation stone. The *Observer* reported that although bad weather 'prevented so large an assemblage as the importance of the event would otherwise have gathered', there was still a decent gathering. It highlighted that:

all classes of the community were well represented. Many ladies showed their kindly sympathy by their presence. Mr. George Lord, the oldest resident of the township, and a mechanic, was honoured with the responsibility of seeing the stone "well and truly laid".⁴²

The institute was constructed in stages. The hall, retiring room, and porch were built first with the library room following. A large room known as the 'West Room', also

'came into being at the request of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows'. The Oddfellows, the 'oldest organisation in the town', had contributed £60 to the building's construction on the condition they could use a room once a fortnight for the next fifty-four years. It remains unclear when each phase was completed.

Whatever the case, the Robe Institute building opened in late February 1869. On 1 March 1869, the *Evening Journal* reported that the community 'commemorated the opening of the new Institute' by conducting a week-long carnival. The article described the hall as a 'fine room, 50x24' that had been 'tastefully decorated'. It noted the carnival provided quality entertainment, raised 'a handsome sum to the credit of the Institute' and paid for a 'splendid new piano'. Importantly, it observed that towards the end of the carnival the 'Institute Committee were called before the curtain, and received an ovation'.⁴³

The Subsequent Life of the Robe Institute

Over the decades that followed, the Robe Institute continued to grow and was used by a variety of community groups for different purposes. Bermingham observes that 'formal balls, fancy dress and masquerade balls, private dances, bazaars, [and] strawberry fetes all had their place in this hall'.⁴⁴

A free-standing 'conservatory', or shade house (since demolished), was constructed beside the Institute in the 1870s, which went on to be managed by Emily McKenzie, the Institute librarian. By July 1876 the conservatory 'contained some 300 plants, including 80 donated by the Adelaide Botanic Gardens'⁴⁵ and the Institute's library had grown to include over 3,600 books, which was one of the largest collections in South Australia at the time. A natural history collection and a museum were also established.⁴⁶

Several extensions have occurred to the Robe Institute and its hall over the years. The hall appears to have been extended as evidenced by the large hipped-roof which is not visible in earlier historic photographs and the presence of a stage which was probably added between the 1920s and 1940s. A lean-to containing a kitchen, 'projection room' and toilet was added sometime during the twentieth century and the building was also rendered. The projection room was the first part of this lean-to and was possibly built during the 1920s when the hall was adapted to be used as a cinema.⁴⁷ The kitchen and toilet came later, likely during the 1980s (see the historic photographs below). Another two major extensions were added in the 1980s, which went on to house a new library, local history centre, and visitor information centre.⁴⁸

These last two extensions were erected as the Robe Institute was wound up as an entity and its assets and remaining functions were transferred to the District Council of Robe. Mechanics' institutes located across South Australia had been declining for decades owing to diminished funding, the emergence of formal vocational

education, and increased support for free amenities owned and operated by the public.⁴⁹ The Robe Institute was formally dissolved in 1981 and the library and the building were acquired by the council, which took over its services. In 1990, governmental support for South Australian institutes was formally abolished in favour of a unified public library system. This development brought about the end of the institute movement in South Australia.⁵⁰

Chronology

Year	Event
c.1800	George Birkbeck begins giving free lectures on the 'mechanical arts' in Glasgow, Scotland.
1821	The first mechanics' institute opens as the Edinburgh School of Arts on 16 October.
1823	Mechanics' institutes are opened in Glasgow, Liverpool, and London.
1827	The first mechanics' institute in the Australasian colonies opens in Hobart.
1833	A mechanics' institute opens in Sydney.
1834	The South Australian Literary Society is formed in August after the South Australian Act passes in England. It is soon renamed as the South Australian Literary and Scientific Association.
1835	A mechanics' institute opens in Newcastle.
1839	The first mechanics' institute in South Australia opens in Adelaide. A mechanics' institute opens in Melbourne.
1847- 1922	The Hindmarsh Institute is established in 1847; the first building for the institute is erected in 1860; the second building in 1886; the third in 1922.
1848- 1870	The Gawler Institute is established; a building for the institute is erected in 1870.
1850- 1874	The Strathalbyn Institute is established; a building is erected for institute in 1874.
1853- 1890	The Willunga Institute is established; the first building for the institute is erected in 1863; the second building in 1890.
1854- 1880	The Port Elliot Institute is established in 1854; a building for the institute is erected in 1880.
1855	The South Australian Institute is established. The colonial government begins to provide funds for institutes across South Australia.

- 1855-1880 The Woodside Institute is established; a building for the institute is erected in 1880.
- 1855-1895 The Sturt Institute is established; a building for the institute is erected in 1895.
- 1859-1873 The Naracoorte Institute is established; the first building for the institute is erected in 1866; the second building is erected in 1873.
- 1860 The South Australian Institute Building is constructed.
- 1860-1862 The Penola Institute is established; a building for the institute is erected in 1862.
- 1861-1878 The first Goolwa Institute is established; the second institute in 1869; the third in 1878; a building is erected for the third institute in 1878.
- 1862 A Mechanics' Institute is founded in Robe, which operates in the Presbyterian Chapel Room.**
- The Wheel Ellen Institute is established; it disbands a year later.
- 1863-1868 The Mount Gambier Institute is established; a building for the institute is erected in 1868.
- 1864-1930 The first iteration of the Port MacDonnell Institute is established; the second is established in 1876; the first building for the institute is erected in 1878; the second is erected in 1930.
- 1865 Robe's Institute Committee applies to the colonial government for a grant of land to construct a bespoke mechanics' institute building.**
- 1866 The colonial government grants Robe's Institute Committee a quarter-acre block to construct a bespoke mechanics' institute building.**
- 1867-1873 Lacepede Bay Institute is established; a building for the institute is erected in 1873.
- 1868 Foundation stone is laid for the Robe Institute on 24 September.**
- Victor Harbor Institute is established; the first building for the institute is erected in 1870; the second building is erected in 1905; the third is erected in 1981.
- 1869 The Finnis Flat Institute is established; a building for the institute is erected much later in 1913.
- 1872-1884 The Milang Institute is established; a building for the institute is erected in 1884.
- 1875-1909 The Bordertown Institute is established; the first building for the institute is erected in 1878; the second building in 1909.

- 1877-1884 The Millicent Institute is established; a building for the institute is erected in 1884.
- 1879-1884 The Beachport Institute is established; a building for the institute is erected in 1884.
- 1884 The South Australian Institute becomes the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia.
- c.1920s-1930s A stage extension is added to the hall at the rear of the Institute.**
- c.1950s A lean-to 'projection room' is added to the western elevation of the hall.**
- 1980s Three major extensions are made to the Institute, including the rooms to the east and south-east that go on to house the new public library, historical interpretation centre, and visitor information centre.**
- 1981 The Robe Institute is dissolved and its assets are transferred to the District Council of Robe.**
- 1983 Listed as a State Heritage Place on 24 March.**
- 1990 The state government abolishes funding for institutes, effectively bringing the institute movement to an end in South Australia.
- 2004 Heritage SA approves Development Application 822/17/04 to conduct conservation works on the Institute's hall.
- 2007 District Council of Robe undertake renovations to the broader complex.
- 2012 Heritage SA approves Development Application 18/10/2012 to conduct conservation works on the Institute's roof.
- 2015 The History Trust of South Australia holds its conference at the Robe Institute in October.
- 2019 A commemorative plaque is erected to mark the 150th anniversary of the Robe Institute.**

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BHI Summary of State Heritage Place: 10365

14 of 22

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The South Australian Heritage Council endorsed the content of this BHI - SSHP on 7 December 2023.

<https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/places/institute-building>

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Hancock, Joelle. 'The Institute Movement in SA: The Quest for Useful Knowledge. Part 2: Quest Accomplished'. Institutes of South Australia, 2021, p.4. https://institutessa.com/?page_id=3083

'See and Do in Robe', District Council of Robe.

<https://www.robe.sa.gov.au/explore/attractions>

SITE DETAILS

Robe Institute

PLACE NO.: 10365

Lot 130 Mundy Terrace, Robe

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Rectangular rendered and painted stone building constructed in two parts, with a concealed hipped-roof featuring segmented arch door and windows with decorative surrounds to Smillie Street. The rear of the building features a Zinalume® clad, hipped roof with unadorned arched windows to Mundy Terrace.
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1869
REGISTER STATUS:	Confirmed 24 March 1983
CURRENT USE:	Library, Historical Interpretive Centre, community hall c.1981 -
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Mechanics' Institute, 1868 - Picture theatre, c.1928-unknown
ARCHITECT:	William T. Gore, 1868
BUILDER:	Savage and Kerr, 1868
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	District Council of Robe
LOCATION:	Street Name: Mundy Terrace Town/Suburb: Robe Post Code: 5276
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Reference: CR 5647/289 T441801 A130 Hundred: Waterhouse

PHOTOS

Robe Institute

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Lot 130 Mundy Terrace, Robe



Streetview of Robe Institute c.1880, showing a conservatory to the right.

Source: R. S. Stacy, SLSA B18999



Streetview of Robe Institute c.1913.

Source: W. J. Angus, SLSA B12088

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17 of 22

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PHOTOS

Robe Institute

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Lot 130 Mundy Terrace, Robe



Robe Institute, c.1981

Source: DEW Files, c.1981



Robe Institute, 2015

Source: Flickr (user: History Trust of South Australia). Reproduced per [CC BY-NC 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/)

PHOTOS

Robe Institute

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Lot 130 Mundy Terrace, Robe



Rear of the Robe Institute showing entrance to the hall, June 2010

Source: DEW Files, c.2010



Rear of the Robe Institute showing the stage extension, c.1981

Source: DEW Files, c.1981

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19 of 22

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PHOTOS

Robe Institute

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Lot 130 Mundy Terrace, Robe



Eastern elevation of the hall, showing the projection room lean-to extension, c.1981

Source: DEW Files, c.1981



South-eastern corner of the Robe Institute with an extension to the east, c.1981

Source: DEW Files, c.1981.

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- ¹ M. R. Talbot, *A Chance to Read: A History of the Institutes Movement in South Australia* (Adelaide: Libraries Board of South Australia, 1992), pp.1-2; Joeline Hancock, 'The Institute Movement in SA: the Quest for Useful Knowledge. Part 1: the Quest', *Institutes of South Australia*, 2021, p.2. https://institutessa.com/?page_id=3080
- ² 'Dr. George Birkbeck and Technical Education', *Nature* 148:659 (1941). <https://www.nature.com/articles/148659b0>
- ³ 'Dr. George Birkbeck', *Nature*.
- ⁴ Talbot, *A Chance to Read*, pp.3-5.
- ⁵ Talbot, *A Chance to Read*, p.4.
- ⁶ Talbot, *A Chance to Read*, p.2.
- ⁷ Talbot, *A Chance to Read*, p.4.
- ⁸ Talbot, *A Chance to Read*, p.2.
- ⁹ Talbot, *A Chance to Read*, p.1 and pp.5-8.
- ¹⁰ Talbot, *A Chance to Read*, p.6.
- ¹¹ *South Australian Institute Act 1855*, quoted in Jude Elton, 'Institute Building', SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia. <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/places/institute-building>
- ¹² Elton, 'Institute Building'.
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- ¹⁴ Joeline Hancock, 'The Institute Movement in SA: The Quest for Useful Knowledge. Part 2: Quest Accomplished', *Institutes of South Australia*, 2021, p.4. https://institutessa.com/?page_id=3083
- ¹⁵ Liz Harfull, *Almost an Island: The Story of Robe*, reprinted edition (2013; Mile End: Wakefield press, 2015), 12-14; Susan Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days* (Robe: District Council of Robe, 1985), pp.11-12.
- ¹⁶ Harfull, *Almost an Island*, 11; Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days*, p.12.
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- ¹⁹ Dallwitz and Marsden, *Robe Historical Interpretation*, pp.4-10.
- ²⁰ Dallwitz and Marsden, *Robe Historical Interpretation*, pp.4-10.
- ²¹ Marsden, *A Glimpse of Golden Days*, pp.21-24.
- ²² Dallwitz and Marsden, *Robe Historical Interpretation*, pp.10-16.
- ²³ 'Guichen Bay', *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 10 March 1862, p.3.
- ²⁴ 'Guichen Bay', 10 March 1862, p.3.
- ²⁵ 'Guichen Bay', *Adelaide Observer*, 22 March 1862, p. 2.
- ²⁶ 'Guichen Bay', *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 8 April 1862, p.3.
- ²⁷ 'Guichen Bay', *Adelaide Observer*, 22 March 1862, p.2; 'Robe Institute [letter to the editor]', *South Australian Weekly Chronicle* (Adelaide), 23 August 1862, p. 2.
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- ³² Harfull, *Almost an Island*, p.227.
- ³³ 'Petition for Grant for Institute at Robe' reproduced in 'Local Intelligence', *Border Watch* (Mount Gambier), 31 August 1867, p.2.
- ³⁴ Petition for Grant, 31 August 1867, p.2.
- ³⁵ Petition for Grant, 31 August 1867, p.2.
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- ³⁷ Talbot, *A Chance to Read*, p.1 and pp.5-8.
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