

**GAWLER HERITAGE STUDY: STAGE 1**  
**ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET**

- 75 -

Hignett & Company

**ITEM NAME**

Current: GAWLER INSTITUTE

Historical:

**ITEM NUMBER**

.46

**DATE**

**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:**

Centre of literary, cultural and educational activities in Gawler for over 100 years and made major contributions to culture in South Australia generally.

Foundation stone laid 13 April 1870 by Governor Fergusson. Architect (allegedly) James Martin; building contractors Tardif and Deland (tender £3434, though final cost closer to £5000). Stone for building given by Edward Clement and land for building by Thomas Martin and James Martin. Initial fund raised by huge art union (main prizes were sections of land previously purchased for site for Institute and by subscription from locals. Memorial front and new hall at rear added (after long agitation over proposed memorial hall) 1931. Stage and new hall rebuilt 1935. Renovation 1954/55, including painting of the facade with funds raised by the local Rotary Club.

Italianate style, walls of bluestone rubble with stucco dressings. Cast iron balustrade to portico at street level. Upper level has tudor arches, lower level has semi-circular arches with moulded surrounds.

Only minor additions (1895) by Taylor and Forgie and renovations (1900).

**LOCATION**

Street No: 91  
 Allotment: Pt. 198  
 Section:  
 Hundred:  
 Street: Murray  
 Town:  
 LGA:  
 Postcode:  
 State Hist.Pres.  
 Region:

**HISTORICAL THEME**

Theme: Social Life and Organisation  
 Subtheme: Societies

**HISTORICAL PERIOD**

State:  
 Study Area: 1849-70

**TYPE OF ITEM**

LAND Natural Feature  
 Historical Site  
 Garden

BUILDING Individual  
 Group

STRUCTURE Complete  
 Relic

**REFERENCES:**

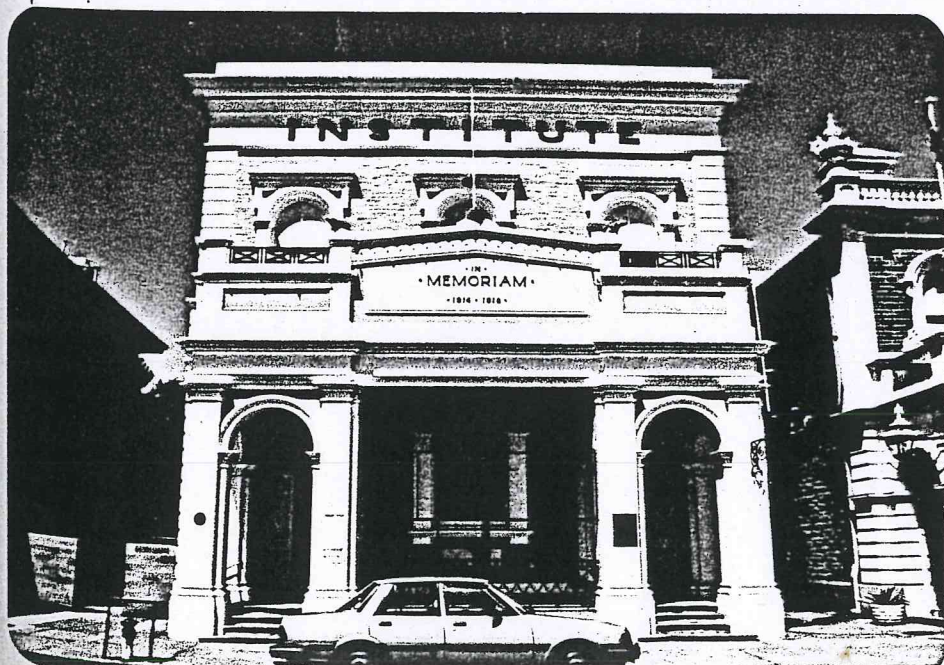
Written: Coombe 71-92; Loyau 21, 64-76; Gawler Institute Archives; Bunyip 18 February 1981 p.22; Early Gawler pamphlet (undated) (c.1880); Ellis 2:57, 69.  
 Vocal:

Archival Photographs: Loyau opposite p.17 (c.1880)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No: Negative No:  
 Direction of view:



**STATUS**

Register of State  
 Heritage Items  
 On Register  
 Interim List  
 Nominated

National Estate ✓  
 National Trust ✓ 699  
 R.A.I.A.  
 Civic Trust  
 N.P. & W.L.S.

Council  
 Australian Heritage  
 Engin. Record  
 Other

**MAP**

Scale:  
 Source:

PREPARED BY:



G11 - GAWLER INSTITUTE  
Murray Street  
*Gawler*  
Built 1870.

Italianate building with wall of bluestone rubble with stone dressings. Cast iron balustrade to portico at street level bears an interesting inscription as follows:-

"Cast from first iron smelt in the Colony at the Phoenix Foundry 1871 from ore raised in the district of Barossa. Presented James Martin, Esq."

Good condition.

Another plaque on building reads:-

"In 1859 a competition for a national song was conducted by the Gawler Institute and from 96 entries in lyrical section and 25 entries in musical section the Song of Australia was selected as the best. Words - Carolin Carleton, Music Carl Linde"

It was first sung in public at Gawler 12th December, 1859.

#### Recommendations

Preserve as part of Murray Street.

GRADE I



