

Court.¹ Previously northern people had complained about the expense and inconvenience of cases having to be heard in Adelaide. But these changes did not represent an increase in local autonomy; a central government service had merely been made more readily available.

A circuit of the Supreme Court had been provided for the South-East since 1862.² This was an early recognition of the separateness and comparative isolation of this part of the colony. It was conceded, however, only after Adelaide had received a mild shock. In 1861 the South-East was included in a proposed new colony—Princeland—which disaffected elements in western Victoria were promoting. Members of the Separation League from Portland spoke in the South-East and collected signatures for their monster petition. They did not meet with a very promising reception and the whole movement quickly collapsed.³ This was the greatest threat the South-East ever posed to Adelaide, and even this had been promoted by outsiders. Nevertheless the South-East was more ready than any other area to entertain the notion of local autonomy. It was the only district, for instance, to support the government's proposal of 1873 that districts should maintain main roads out of a local rate. All other districts wanted roads to be built and maintained out of general revenue, but the chairmen of the South-East district councils and the *Border Watch* asked why the South-East should contribute through general revenue to the maintenance of the many long-established roads around Adelaide while it had so few roads itself.⁴ But this was a difficult position to maintain when in the following year the government announced that it could pay for both construction and maintenance of main roads everywhere. Though the South-East might not feel as close to Adelaide as other districts, the financial reasons for accepting central government control were just as compelling.

It has been argued that a strong central government was acceptable because it harmonized with the shape of social and economic life. But it must be emphasized that there was nothing in economic or social life that made the establishment of strong local bodies an administrative impossibility. The means to local control of education, police and poor relief already existed in the form of district councils. South Australians chose not to use them. In doing so they allowed government to act together with economic and social conditions to inhibit the development of localism. In education

One of the features of South Australian history is the centralization of administration. This was reflected in many ways - the one which is immediately visible is the location of such buildings as Court House & Police stations in the larger country towns and centres. These buildings embody many of the Victorian attitudes which prevailed at the time of their erection.

The development of the administrative structure associated with the establishment of local courts reflected/was determined by the spread of settlement at the time.

This theme of centralism is highlighted by J. B. Nairn in his Adelaide and the Country 1870-1917.

constituents to influence the member for the district, and since it was no hardship to travel as a deputation to ministers in Adelaide. Show week in Adelaide, with country men, members and ministers meeting in deputation rooms and on social excursions, indicates how close the country was to the process of government.

* Country people were also willing to regard the central government as their 'local' government because of its role as the provider of major public works. In matters such as public health and education country people accepted rather than wished the intervention of central authority; the demand for strong government action came chiefly from the metropolis. The central government's provision of public works was viewed very differently. Here there was an almost explicit contract: settlers had paid the government for their land, so they expected railways, bridges and harbours in return. Every settler felt these needs, and the demands for government action were incessant. On the whole these demands were met without provoking conflict between Adelaide and the country. This harmony smoothed the way for the extension of central administration. Had there been prolonged and bitter disagreement over public-works issues, country districts may not have been prepared to trust the central government in other matters. Finally, the country men, like the politicians, had a powerful financial reason for accepting central control. In so doing they obtained schools, teachers, policemen and relief for the destitute without seeming to pay for them.

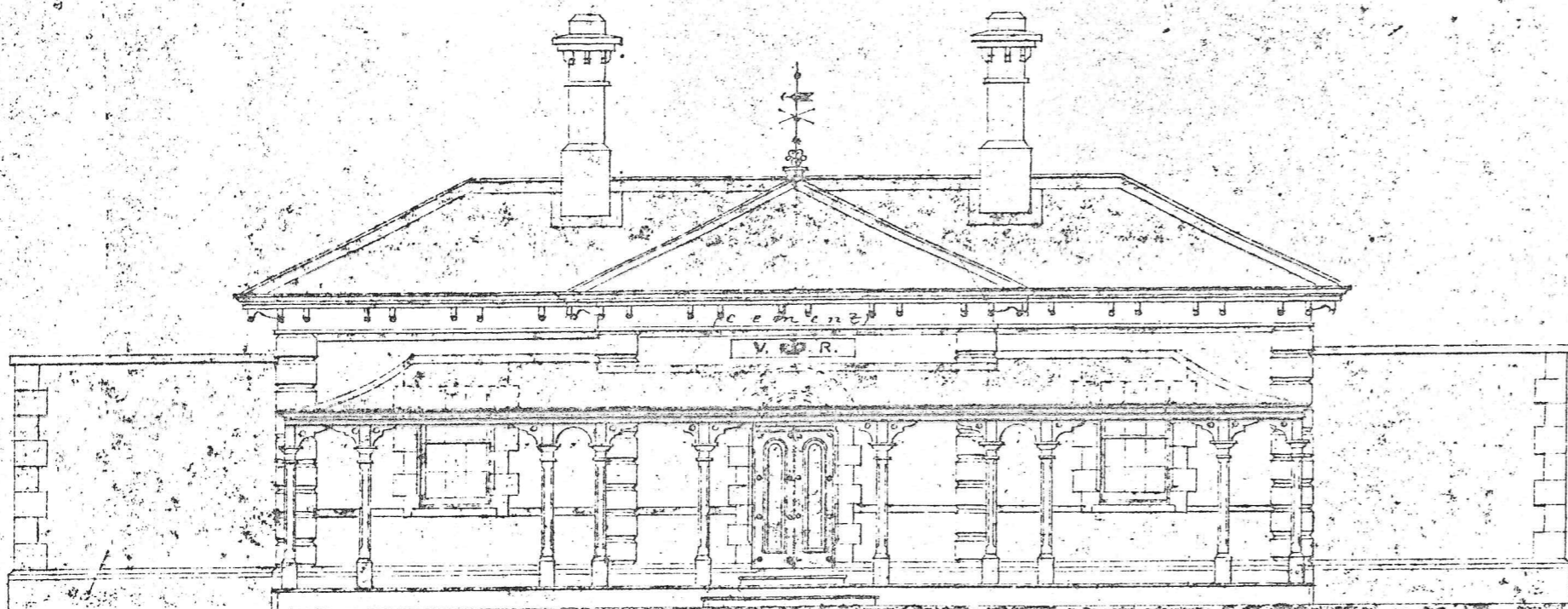
On occasions, of course, country people were annoyed at particular decisions or policies of the centralized administration. It was sometimes alleged, for example, that the Destitute Board was too harsh in its treatment of the poor. Several cases of 'injustice' were publicized, and accompanied by requests for more local control in the administration of relief.⁹⁸ But the complainers were not so concerned with the poor that they offered to impose local rating to provide a more generous system of relief. They wanted a free hand with the central government's funds, a request that could naturally not be granted. Effective local control could only have followed a rearrangement of the public revenue system and the acceptance of some local rating. There was never any movement in the country in this direction. The country press sometimes suggested it,⁹⁹ but with no consistency or any noticeable effect.

The newly settled and more distant areas of the colony were as content with central control as those nearer Adelaide. The one change that the development of the northern wheatlands induced in the administrative structure was an expansion of the jurisdiction of local courts and the provision of a northern circuit for the Supreme

CALLINGTON
POLICE STN.

1868

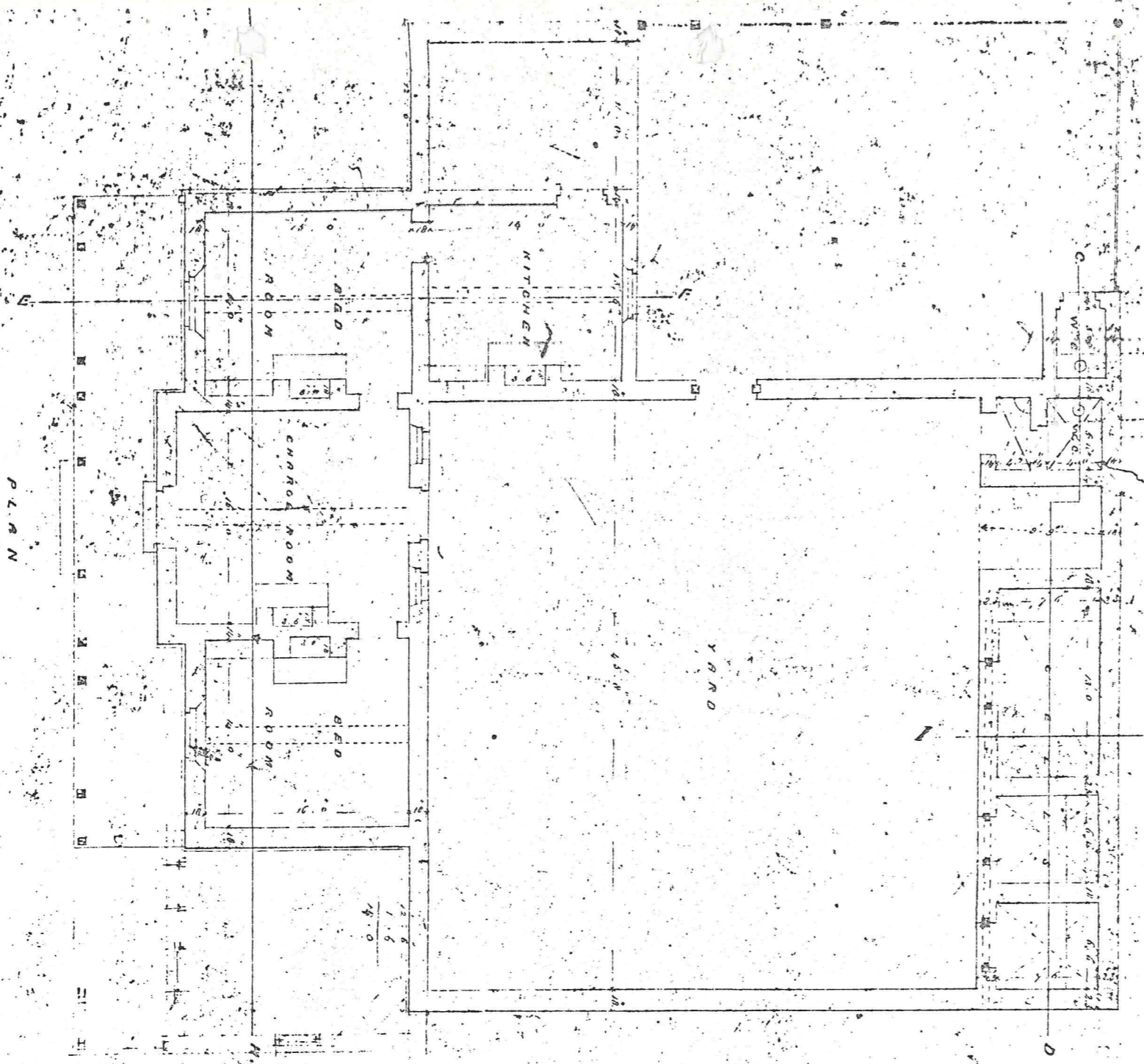
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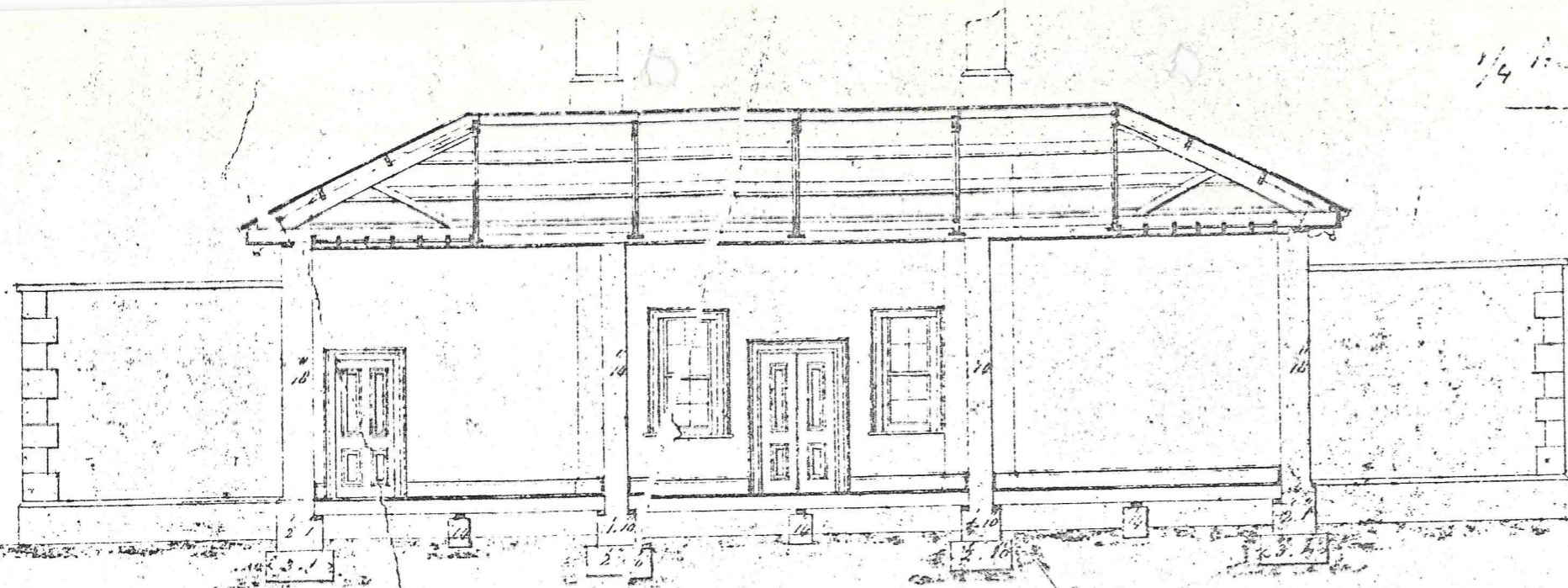


ELEVATION

TRVED + CALLINGTON
POL. STN.
1867

CALLINGTON
TRURO
PO1. ST11.
1867





SECTION C.H.
TRURO POL. STN.
1867



This is the drawing referred to in the Specification
for Truro Police Station dated May 1st 1867

Wm. R. Deane

Witness
C. F. Light C. S.
6/3/67

This is the drawing referred to in the Specification
for Mintaro Police Station dated May 1st 1867

Witness *Thos. Hillman*
17/6/67

John Peterson

This is the drawing referred to in the Specification
for Ballington Police Station dated May 6th 1867

Witness
Wells & Mackin
C. F. Light C. S.

This is the drawing referred to in the Specification
for Callington Police Station dated May 20th 1867

Witness *Thomas White*
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George H. H. H.