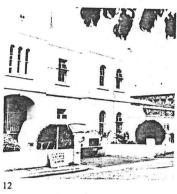
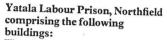
THE HERITAGE OF AUSTRALIA

The Illustrated Register of the National Estate

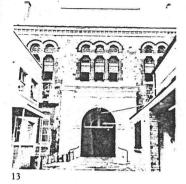
Enfield City





12 The Administrative Building, which was designed by E. A. Hamilton, was built in 1860 and extended in 1967. It is a stuccoed stone two-storey building with an attractive arched entrance.

13 The 'A' Division Cell Block was built by prison labour and completed in 1884. It is a three-storey stone build-14 ing with brick quoins. The 'B' Division Cell Block was designed by Hare & Hamilton, built in 1858, and extended in 1872 and 1878. It is a three-storey building in stone with brick quoins and timber lintels. No 31 15 Guard's Cottage is a single-storey stone building built in 1874, with brick quoins and a later verandah. The two-16 storey Newer Stable was built by pris-



oners in 1874 and is in stone with brick quoins and a hipped roof. The former 17 'A' Division Guards Quarters, now the Staff Training School, is a two-storey stone building (1874) with stone-andbrick quoins and brick reveals, and is 18 built into the prison wall. The Warders' Tower (No 1 Post) was built in 1870 and is a steel bridge-like structure spanning the railway line and commands a view of the quarry where 19 prisoners worked. The Powder Magazine was a squat stone structure erected in 1878 to store explosives for use in the nearby quarry operations. Now in ruins, it is sited within a solidly constructed stone perimeter wall. It is part of a group of related structures including lookouts and towers, once used to supervise prisoners in the vicinity.



The suburban monthly news magazine Established 1978 September 1983

Yatala & our heritage

Heritage ..a matter of convenience

Recent history shows that the biggest obstacle a private property developer can encounter is a Heritage listing on buildings occupying the development site. But what happens if the "developer" is the government?

UCKED AWAY on page 19 of the Advertiser of Thursday July 21 was a small advertisement announcing the Minister for Environment and Planning's intention to remove the A Division cellblock at Yatala Prison from the Register of State Heritage

There are eight significant heritage buildings at Yatala, all classified by the National Trust as essential to the heritage of Australia.

Of the cell-blocks, A Division is the finest, showing the best quality workmanship in the detailing of stone walls. Most of the heritage buildings are constructed of stone quarried as a prison industry from the banks of Dry Creek, which flows through the prison property.

Hard-labour prisoners

produced handbroken stone for use in road construction and "builders" and "pavers" for the gaol and many other Adelaide buildings. This historic association adds further to the heritage value of the gaol buildings.

No-one can deny the problems that face the current administration of Yatala Labour Prison, but it would be incorrect to blame those problems on its nineteenth-century buildings.

Prisoner dissatisfaction is probably rooted more deeply in the penal system itself than in the accommodation offered at Yatala, yet proposed changes to the gaol presently include the demolition and replacement of A Division with a building more suitable for maximum security prisoners.

Even though it was

damaged recently by fire, A Division was by no means burnt out. The roof is gone, and some doors and a chapel are destroyed, but the greater proportion of the building and therefore its heritage value — remains intact.

Upgrading of the cell-block by converting alternate cells to toilet and washing facilities for those adjacent, together with the provision of some communal ammenities would accommodate at least as many prisoners as the proposed replacement building. Recent investigations even suggest that there may be no such need for replacement accommodation.

It can only be assumed that the demolition of A Division would be for reasons of political expediency — to be seen to be doing something

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE ACT, 1978 OF INTENTION TO REMOVE ITEM FROM TI REGISTER OF STATE HERITAGE ITEMS

mom the Hegister of State Heritage items. I shall consider all written objections to the removal of the ite on or before 5 p.m., October 14, 1983.

Objections may be addressed to the Manager, Heritage (Branch, G.P.O. Box 667, Adelaide, S.A. 5001.

THE SCHEDULE

ADDRESS NAME Corporation of the City of Enfield "A" Division Cell Block

ted at Adelaide this 21st day of July, 1983.

HOPGOOD MISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

about the current prison problems by removing a ver visible sign of an anachronis tic prison system.

And to avoid the embarra sment of a governmen breaking its own rules, th Minister first wishes to formally defuse a possible heritage argument by de listing the building.

Adelaide's love for it nineteenth century Kin William Street buildings ha seen them restored an successfully renovated fo modern day use - why no Yatala?

And if A Division must g why deny its historica importance? Let it be seen t being of significant heritag value until the day the wal come down.



MICHAEL WILSON

MEMBER FOR TORRENS

North Adelaide Village Archer St., Nth. Adel. 5006. Ph. 267 4592



Wednesday, October 5, 1983

No. 741

A member of Australian Suburban Newspapers Association

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YATALAHERITAGE TOBEDESTROYED

THE State Government has already decided to replace Yatala Labor Prison's A Division despite the building being on the Heritage List and there being more than a week left for the public to register objections.

That's the claim from Enfield and District Historical Society which has been seeking the building's preservation since it was burnt during a riot at the goal last March.

In a letter to *The Standard*, the society's president Enfield Ald. Ron Bonner says he believes a contract for demolishing A Division has already been let and work is set to start on Tuesday,

November 1.

By MEREDITH GLASTONBURY

The society is alarmed that this decision appears to have been made despite the fact the State Government called for objections to delisting the building from the Heritage List in July and submissions are not due to close until Friday, October 14.

The fire at the goal in March is believed to have damaged the roof and upper floor of A Division but left the building structurally sound and capable of restoration.

"This society would like to know how tenders for demolition can be called and a contract let, when a building is structually sound and on the Heritage List, before objections to its delisting have been received," Ald. Bonner said in the



Public Works Minister Jack Wright has denied claims the building will be razed and said that no action would be taken until submissions closed and the Environment Minister considered delisting.

Enfield and Districts Historical Society spokesman Denis Robinson says A Division is the only example of its type of stone construction in Australia with walls more than a metre thick.

"It is understood that the people who prepared the redevelopment plan for Yatala were advised that restoration of A Division was not to be considered as an option," he said.

Chief Secretary Gavin Keneally said in a letter to the society dated September 14 (a month before submissions close) that "after assessing all the alternatives, the Government has decided to replace A Division with a modern unit which will reflect a 20th century approach to correctional administration."

"The decision was not taken lightly and it is regretted that a building with the architectural qualities of A Division should be demolished," Mr. Keneally said in the letter.

As submissions for delisting don't officially close until Friday, October 14, the Enfield and District Society is still urging people to sign its petition against the State Government's plans.

Further details are available by ringing Ald.
Bonner on 261 9081 or Denis Robinson or society secretary Marjorie Thorndike on

Alcatraz prop for Yatala pris

ADELAIDE could have a tourist attraction similar to Sa Francisco's infamous Alcatraz Prison if a suggestion from Enfield Historical Society is taken up.

The society has asked toric site as a tourist and the State Government to preserve Yatala Labor Prison's historic A Division as a unique tourist attraction.

The group is keen to see the building become a tourist and entertainment centre along similar lines to San Francisco's infamous Alcatraz Prison.

Society spokesman Deroup's plans however would include not only tours through the building as happens at Alcatraz but refurbishing part of A Division as an entertainment complex.

"The society feels that preservation of this hisentertainment centre would be unique not only in Australia but possibly the world," he said.

"A development of this exciting project should be exciting project should be given priority in our State, expecially as we are being called on to promote tourism and it could become a Jubilee 150 and bicentenary pro-

The society is desperately trying to stop the State Government from demolishing A Division which it claims is of lasting historic value as one of best examples of stomemasonary in SA.

present prison, the se ciety would like to see new high security gar

built on vacant land to the east of Yatala.

The society current has a petition circulatin to protest at the likely delisting of Yatala's Division from the Stat Heritage List and is er couraging residents t sign before the close of submissions this Friday Octber 14.

Further details ar available from Deni Robinson or Marjori Thorndike at Enfiel Council on 261 3099 c omemasonary in SA. society president Ald In a bid to save the Ron Bonner on 261 9081

Yatala is on death row despite reprieve move 6-North-East Leader, Wednesday, October 12, 198

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By MEREDITH GLASTONBURY

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Historical group wants Yatala building saved

A group of conservationists is trying to stop the demolition of SA's biggest colonial building, the A Division block at Yatala Labor

The State Government is calling tenders for the demolition of the 100-year-old building, despite objections from more than 400 people.

The State Cabinet is expected to approve the removal of the building from the State Heritage register soon.

Although the building is still listed on the register, once the Cabinet agrees to the demolition of a heritage item, work can go ahead immediately.

"It is a public outrage," the Press officer for the Enfield and Districts Historical Society, Mr Denis Robinson, said yes-

"The Government is hell-bent on knocking it down.

"But there is no reason why such a beautifully-built structure should go."

The society had received a good response from a recent appeal to SA architects and town planners to support the retention of the building for community use.

The building, which was vacated following a fire during a prisoner riot in March, should be retained while possible future uses were considered.

The fire had destroyed the roof, but the building, with walls 1.5 metres thick, was structurally sound.

The Government's \$9m. plans for prison redevelopment showed clearly that prisons were being decentralised, and a modern high-security prison could be built on

Government-owned land outside the pre-

sent walls.
"We understand from architectural contacts that it would be more economic to

build a new prison on an open site," he said.
The T-shaped block had been built in about 1880, with stone quarried near the site and hand-cut. Lintels had been brought out from England as ballast in

An architect had described the building

as "a classic."

Internally, it could be modified for a variety of uses, including performing arts and entertainment, museum and archives.

"It could be a marvellous tourist attraction," he said. "People flock to Port Arthur, and that is only a ruin.

"And the Tower of London was only 100 years old once.

"We believe it is sacrilege to destroy such a great part of Australia's heritage."

The Government was not showing imagination about future use of such a fine building, which could be separated from the prison eventually.

"If the Government acts hastily, it may regret its actions later." Mr. Robinson said. "While the building is still up, there is

The Enfield town clerk, Mr G. Turner, said the Government had notified the council that it intended to demolish A

Under the Building Act, the Government was exempt from provisions requiring council approval, as long as notification

was given. Future plans for the A block site have not been devised yet. Last week members of the Public Works Committee toured eastern States prisons to study their facilities and security systems.

The Advertiser, Wednesday, November 9, 1983

What price registers?

Sir - We believe we can now assume that Heritage Registers — whether Adelaide City Council or State — are not worth the paper they are printed on.

On the one hand we have the example of the Aurora Hotel. Here the Lord Mayor's Heritage Advisory Committee, despite advice from its consultants that the Aurora is worthy of preservation, chose to exclude the hotel from the list of heritage items because it was on a site already proposed for de-velopment. Now that exclusion is being used as a justification for the development to go ahead. Such circular logic is worthy of the Mad Hatter.

On the other hand we

have the State Government apparently about to remove Yatala A Division Block from the State Heritage list so it can be demolished. How convenient!

If we cannot trust the State Government or Adelaide City Council with our heritage, whom can we trust?

LEON A. LE LUE, MARGARET M. DORSCH. Goodwood.

The Advertiser, Friday, November 11, 1983

Demolish prison: Keneally

A GROUP of conservationists is trying to stop the demolition of SA's biggest colonial building, the 100-year-old A Division block at Yatala Labor Prison.

The State Government is calling tenders

for the demolition. Page 15.

The A Division block at Yatala Labor Prison needed to be demolished, the Chief Secretary, Mr Keneally, said yesterday. He said he saw no reason to change his submission to the Cabinet. The Enfield and Districts Historical Society says the building, which was built in 1880 and is on the State Heritage register, should be saved. The T-shaped block was vacated following a fire during a prisoner riot in March. The Government has a \$9m redevelopment plan that will decentralise the

The Advertiser, Friday, November 11, 19

Stunned by plan

Sir — I was stunned to read (The Advertiser, 8/ 11/83) that the State Government intends to remove SA's biggest colonial building, the A Division block at Yatala Labor Prison, from the State Heritage Register so that it can be demolished molished.

I had thought that in-clusion of an item on the clusion of an item on the register had meaning. As things turned out, the action of the State Government in putting the entire site of the Penfolds Grange vineyards at Magill on the interim list and then on the register served only to lull guilible citizens into a false sense of security. Worse, the action of the Government took some of the wind out of the sails of the Save the Grange Vineyard Cam-paign because too many believed the vineyards

believed the vineyards had already been saved.
However, the report has more sinister implications. It indicates the State Government can "demolish" the Heritage Act whenever it suits it to do so It suggests politido so. It suggests politi-cians in matters of con-

servation can avoid their servation can avoid their responsibilities by encouraging a concerned public to believe in ar Act which is in fact ? sham.

Despite soothing and encouraging noises by the Minister of Environ ment and Planning, D Hopgood, in favor of th retention of the Grang vineyard, when the chip are down the Govern ment has not offered on cent actively to support the preservation of the unique part of ou heritage.

"There is no money," the cry. But now th same Government ca suddenly find the mone to destroy another part our heritage, anoth-item on the State Her age Register. May I su gest the money to spent on demolishing Block at Yatala Lab Prison be used to he save the Grange vineya at Magill? By such a se sible decision two iter on the register would rescued from irretric able destruction.
W. A. DIBDE

Toorak Garde

herita

Allow me to trespass on your time by drawing aftention to the Nissen hufs at the Pennington migrant hostel.

. The first thing which strikes the observer is their transcendant beauty, the fluid poetry of their

Then, of course, one sees them in their total environmental context. Separately one is struck by the individual grace of the style. Together one is moved by their

collective integrity.
Finally, one is overwhelmed by their historic significance.

Contemplating this unique precinct one is awed by the thought of the famous South Australians who may have passed through these huts before going into the great world outside to write their names indelibly in our history. From this you will realise the ab-

solute necessity of preserving these structures in all their pristine glory for eternity.

If necessary, Heritage laws must be invoked. Any suggestion of possible dissent must be met with protest, petition, and, perhaps, sit-in.

Enough. I concede I am being ponderously ironic.

But environmentalism in SA a good cause if ever there was one is being taken to ludicrous lengths.

I am not talking about the marginal case of the Aurora Hotel, but the latest suggestion that A Division block at Yatala Labor Prison is

vital to our history and m kept.

The problems of our priso many - beginning with the culty the authorities have in] a quorum within them.

Keeping A Block would be an expensive way of add the problem.

Mind you, it would be a monument.

to Environ A : shrine Extremism.

The Advertiser, Friday, September 30, 1983

Old Yatala gaol section to be razed: society

The Government is set to demolish A Division at Yatala Labor Prison although it is on the Heritage List and structurally sound, according to the Enfield and Districts Historical Society.

The society's president, Mr. R. C. Bonner, says this in a letter to The Advertiser.

The A Division building was burnt during a riot at the gaol in March.

Mr. Bonner says the Government asked in July for objections to delisting the building. Submissions would close on October 14.

"It has been drawn to our attention that a contract for demolition has already been let." the letter says.

This has been denied by the Minister of Public Works, Mr. Wright, who said: "No actions will be taken before the submissions have been considered by the Minister of Environment and a decision taken on the listing."

Historical society spokesman Mr. D. Robinson said the Chief Secretary, Mr. Keneally, had already said he wanted the building demolished.

"We received a letter from Mr. Keneally dated September 14 - a month before submissions close on delisting," Mr. Robinson said.

"In it Mr. Keneally says: '... the Government has decided to replace A division with a modern unit which will reflect the 20th-century approach to correctional administration.'

"This suggests the decision has already been made and it would be a crying shame for Australia, let alone SA, if it were to be demolished."

A spokesman for Mr. Keneally said yesterday the Minister and the Department of Correctional Services both wanted the building replaced.

"Certainly we want to knock it down, but we can't do a thing until and unless the Environment Department gives approval for the delisting," he said.

"That has not happened. The submissions are still open and approval might not be given."

56-SUNDAY MAIL, November 13, 1983

Fears on quarry a Yatala By William Reschke

Heritage conscious South Australians fear more than Yatala A Division will disappear in the dust clouds of demolition.

They anticipate the loss of the rare stone in the historic building.

They believe the Government will act quickly to knock the building down.

Tenders for the work closed vesterday.

Specifications allow only five weeks for clearing the site.

Valuable

A spokesman, architectural technical officer, Mr R. Anesbury, expressed concern yesterday.

"A lot more could be lost than a jail block, he said.

"Yatala is built of Dry Creek bluestone, a high quality material quarried on the site.

"It is used also in many Adelaide buildings, including the Town Hall.

"Original quarries have been filled in or exhausted or are too difficult and expensive to operate for isolated restoration work.

"In effect, A Division will become a quarry pulling it down will yield valuable stone. It is essential that it be stored for future restoration use,

"Stone is required already for repair work at Yatala and the SA Museum redevelopment project.

"Users of the stone would pay, recouping eventually the cost of

The stone of Yatala . . . not just a jail.

properly demolishing and storing the Yatala stone.

"Vast sums of money have been wasted down the years on restoration with the wrong stone.

Inadequate

"The specification for demolition calls for saving only of 2500 tonnes of stone. That is quite inadequate in view of restoration needs in years to come."



Prison block 'historic'

TONY BAKER'S frivolous treatment of the propose demolition of A Block at Yatala Labor Prison (Th News, 9/11/83), shows his ignorance and short sightedness of the subject.

The building is unique. historic, structurally soun and on the Heritage List.

We have an obligation to future generations to pre serve our history wherever possible.

The original reason for demolition was that th building was not sound because of fire damage. This is not true.

I can only wonder at the logic of moving in heav demolition equipment to destroy a building that is sti on the Heritage List.

News, Thursday, November 17, 1983

STASZYNSK

on heritage

Sir — The hue and cry over "heritage" seems so much wasted breath unless the State Heritage Act has some legal backing.

It is clear from the Grange Vineyard case and the proposed demolition of the A Division Block of Yatala Labor Prison, that any item on the register of the State Heritage is a mere pawn on the political chessboard.

In some parts of Europe prohibitions exist against altering the distinctive and traditional form of town or streetscape in order to preserve historic and architectural continuity and to ensure that new buildings are in harmony with the old.

Though one is led to believe some such policy is observed here it seems that the reverse is sometimes the case - for into Ayers House and the sign on the Britannia Hotel referred to by Elizabeth Bull (The Advertiser, 24/11/83).

At present a pic-turesque 19th-century building such as the Aurora stands on the brink of demolition, while at the same time proposals are afoot to impose on the East End of Rundle Street a style imitative of the turn of the century.

How quaint! Why not make the most of the genuine article wherever practicable? If a building is structurally sound our technological know how should be capable of combining the necessary functional elements with both the historic and aesthetic, not to mention the economic!

It is time for some firm · legislation on heritage matters so that where there is a conflict of interests the position is clear from the outset.

ALISON DOLLING, Burnside. The Advertiser, Saturday, December 17, 1983

Heritage defined

Sir - The recent State government inaction on. several heritage issues, namely the Aurora Hotel, the Grange Vineyards and

the historic "A" Block at Yatala Gaol, prompts me to examine exactly what leritage is all about.

To heed the arguments postulated by some of our experts one would assume that we mean the preservation of a selection of landmarks of historic and/ or architectural significance and the dwindling green belt around the city.

To pursue this policy zealously would result in a city with a sprinkling of representative museum pieces such as the tur-reted stock exchange building "sky locked" all around by sombre grey towers.

Rather than becoming another smaller version of our other cities with their motley collection of buildings, surely Adelaide can now embellish its rapidly disappearing unique grace and charm. Office blocks should be built in the central business district and not in the place of a harmless and appealing old hotel in the precinct of the recreationa area of Hindmars! Square.

The few remaining buf fer zones should remain intact and proposed hous ing be relocated.

Some would argue that this all stands in the way of "progress," that tourists and investors will not be attracted by a few charming old buildings— exactly the reason for making the effort to retain the city as a complete entity as a historical, charming and aesthetically pleasing environment.

The tourist dollar as such is not just concerned with luring jet-setting overseas tourists but motivating our own people to spend their leisure time and money in and around the city; beautiful parks lined with gracious buildings converted into sidewalk cafes, icecreameries and such-like in a festive atmosphere will draw the crowds, not green traffic islands shadowed by sombre office blocks.

> DENNIS COLEMAN. Demancourt.

The Advertiser, Monday, December 19, 1983

New fight for heritage action group

A heritage action group formed in the wake of the campaign to save the Aurora Hotel will join forces with the Enfield Historical Society to try to halt the demolition of Yatala Labor Prison's A Block.

The president of the steering committee of the group, to be called Aurora-Heritage Action, Mr Andrew Cawthorne, said the two groups would seek a meeting with the Minister for Environment and Planning, Dr Hopgood, this week.

The State Government has announced it intends demolishing the block despite its being on the State Heritage Register as an item of historic significance.

"We will be asking whether the Government intends removing A Block from the register or demolishing it while it's still on the register," he said.

"If they intend demolishing it without taking it off the register then we will be asking

questions about the value of the State Heritage Act.

"We understand they have begun dismant-ling the building from the inside."

A Block was built in 1880 and was placed on the State Heritage Register in 1980. The Enfield Historical Society has called for it to be saved as an important part of the State's penal history.

Mr Cawthorne said people involved in setting up the heritage action group, including architects, historians, artists and lawyers, were disillusioned with existing heritage groups, including the National Trust.

The trust had become a "tea party" society

with no clout.

The action group did not want to see Adelaide become like Perth or "anywhere

As a starting point, it had decided to seek preservation of all buildings in the city built before 1914, he said.

- City Reporter CHRIS RUSSELL

Advertiser Sat. 10" Dec 1983

Heritage 'watchdog' planned

People involved in the Aurora Hotel protest and others concerned about heritage, plan to form an on-going heritage "watchdog" group. About 50 people, including architects, historians and artists, met last weekend to discuss the move and another meeting is planned for today. The group is considering publishing a book on the Aurora protest and is taking a major role in examining the City Council's proposed heritage list. But it does not plan to limit itself to city heritage matters.

- City Reporter CHRIS RUSSELL

Yatala part of our histor

tages in Strawson Ros Northfield.

Prison block 'historic'

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We have an obligation to future generations to pre-

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The original reason for demolition was that the building was not sound because of fire damage. This

I can only wonder at the logic of moving in heavy demolition equipment to destroy a building that is still

J. STASZYNSKI,

The News, Thursday, November 17, 1983—31 Clearview.

THE EDITOR—The Enfield & District Historical Society is deeply concerned over the news that 'A' Division at Yatala Labor Prison is to be demolished following damage by fire during a recent riot.

As a society concerned about the preservation of this district's history, we protest that this building, which is registered on the State Heritage List, is to be destroyed.

It is to be hoped more consideration will be given to other buildings botrh inside and outside the Yatala Prison Compound.

Another group of buildings also earmarked for demolition but still in as reasonable state of re-

pair are the warders' cot-

We realise that certa works have to be carri out, but some of t southernmost cottages not intrude upon the pr posed development.

these of these cottages.

A high security area being planned which compasses the majority

The society considers would be a mark of goo will if some of the buildings are spared ar incorporated into the adjoining Enfield Counc Reserve to be used as kiosk and museum di playing prison items and development of the Northfield area.

DENNIS ROBINSOI

Publicity officer Enfield & District Historical Society

The Advertiser, Friday, November 18, 1983

Prison relics

Sir — Alas, A Block Yatala Labor Prison is about to be demolished. Cranes and demolition equipment have been moved in to start next week to remove a building that is still on the Heritthat is still on the Heritage List.

It would not be surpris-ing to find during demoliing to find during demolition that the basement contains some dungeontype rooms of historic significance, but by then it will be too late to preserve them. This brings back memories of the recent discovery of our first asylum building basement and the enthusiasm of researchers as they pleaded for time to examine them.

The original reason given for demolition of A given for demolition of A Block was that the build-ing was structurally dam-aged in the recent fire. This is not true. It only needs to be reroofed to be preserved. It was also supposed to be replaced by a new \$4m. building which now appears to be shelved due to lack of funds. Therefore the area will be used as open space, hard-ly necessary in an area that has hundreds of acres of open space already.

J. STASZYNSKI. Clearview.

ENFIELD & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The Advertiser, Saturday, November 19, 1983

Shattering silence

Sir — The letter from . L. Anderson (The Advertiser, 4/11/83) again draws attention to the potential of the Grange vineyard at Magill "to become a tourist magnet."

The more recent statement (The Advertiser, 8/ 11/83) by Mr Denis Robinson, the Press officer for the Enfield and Districts Historical Society, says that A block at Yatala Labor Prison, earmarked for demolition in spite of being on the Register of State heritage items, "could be a marvellous tourist attraction."

These statements have made me acutely aware of the shattering silence of the Minister of Tourism, Mr Gavin Keneally, and the Director of the De-partment of Tourism, Mr Graham Inns, in matters of heritage and conservation.

I have always firmly believed that tourism, well-

planned and properly coordinated, holds out the main hope of long-term employment and economic development for SA.

By contrast, short-term employment, but quick profit, come from burying a vineyard under houses or demolishing a building.

So it comes as some-thing of a surprise that those who should be most concerned with the encouragement of tourism in this State are remarkable for their lack of comment.

Certainly, the Department of Tourism has never criticised people such as L. L. Anderson or Mr Robinson for being unrealistic in their claims.

Neither has it come out enthusiastically in support.

Does the Minister and his Department have any views at all?

Or are they so convinced by the idea that a casino will solve all the State's tourist problems that they have ceased to ponder on the question? VIRGINIA BALMAIN,

Norwood.

ENFIELD & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The Advertiser, Thursday, December 22, 1983 3

'A' block to go

THE State Government was "adamant" Yatala Labor Prison's historic A block must come down, the Chief Secretary, Mr Keneally, said yesterday. Page 3.

Yatala's A block must come down, says Chief Secretary

The State Government was "adamant" Yatala Labor Prison's historic A block must come down, the Chief Secretary, Mr Keneally, said yesterday.

He said its position as a potential trouble spot in the middle of the State's main maximum security prison had to override heritage considerations.

The block is on the State Heritage Register but its roof has already been removed.

A spokesman for the Minister of Public Works, Mr Wright, said yesterday this was to allow demolition equipment to be moved inside to begin work early next year.

"We have no alternative," Mr Keneally said.

"We are not willing to keep it in the middle of an active prison as a monument to antiquated penal practice or to try and adapt that burnt-out shell to meet present day or future penal standards."

He said the decision had been made after the riot and fire which damaged the building in March.

The Government's view was

By Suburban Reporter CHRIS RUSSELL

that Yatala's B block was a sufficient reminder of 19th century prison buildings.

It had given a long-term pledge that when the new remand centre in Currie Street was completed, Adelaide Gaol, which was older than Yatala, would go to the National Trust.

The Gladstone Gaol had been preserved and it was likely the old Mount Gambier gaol also would be.

A spokesman for the Minister for Environment and Planning, Dr Hopgood, said A block would be removed from the State Heritage Register once it had been demolished.

Mr Keneally said almost all of the space occupied by A block would be used as an exercise yard.

The Northfield Security Hospital next to Yatala would be taken over by the prison for housing dangerous prisoners as soon as the Health Commission could find an alternative for dangerous patients.

The president of the National Trust of SA, Mr G. W. Toogood, said yesterday it was regrettable the Government had decided to demolish an item on the State Heritage Register.

The trust had always hoped all buildings listed would be secure for the future.

The trust had not received a reply from the Premier, Mr Bannon, or from Dr Hopgood, to its letters protesting about the plan to demolish the building

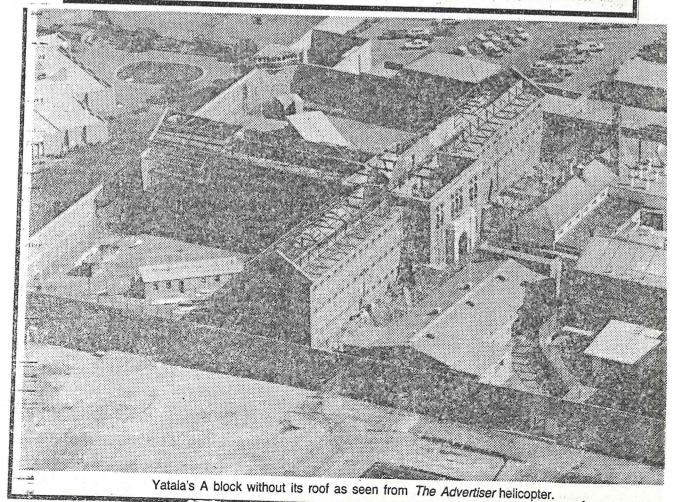
letters protesting about the plan to demolish the building.

The publicity officer of the Enfield Historical Society, Mr D. A. Robinson, said yesterday he did not believe the Government had seriously considered possible alternatives to demolishing the building.

He was completely perplexed by the State Heritage Act and felt as if "the rug has been pulled from under our feet."

Most people believed listing under the Act ensured a building could not be touched but the Act really had no value at all.

The historic block had been built in 1880 and was an important part of SA's penal history. It had been placed on the State Heritage Register in 1980.



National Trust rejects 'tea party' claim

By City Reporter CHRIS RUSSELL

The National Trust of SA has denied it is a "tea party" society with no clout.

Its director, Mr B. T. Hodson, said the claim was simply not true and invited the group whose leader made the accusation to join the trust, see what it was doing and to make helpful

The claim was made by Mr Andrew Cawthorne, president of the steering committee of a new heritage group, Aurora—Heritage Action. He said the trust was not taking enough action to preserve endangered buildings.

Mr Cawthorne was announcing a joint campaign by the group and the Enfield Historical Society to prevent demolition of Yatala Labor Prison's historic A Block.

Mr Hodson said the trust had

Mr Hodson said the trust had already written to the Premier, Mr Bannon, and the Minister for Environment and Planning, Dr Hopgood, proment and Planning, Dr Hopgood, protesting at the Government's plan to demolish A Block, which is on the State Heritage Register.

He said the letters had been acknowledged but not answered.

The trust, with limited resources, had examined and listed more than 4000 buildings in SA.

"I'm not saving the trust doesn't

"I'm not saying the trust doesn't need reviewing — in fact we are undergoing a review at the moment — but it would be better if they channelled some more energy into the trust instead of criticising," Mr Hodson said.

8 The Advertiser, Friday, December 23, 1983

Govt 'making farce' of heritage law

The State Government's handling of the demolition of A block at Yatala Labor Prison was making a farce of SA's heritage legislation, the shadow Minister of Environment, Mr Wotton, said yesterday.

"The Minister of Environment and Planning, Dr Hopgood, has said that A block will be removed from the Heritage Register after it has been demolished," he said.

"While I appreciate that the Crown is not bound by the legislation, the Government's handling of this matter will not encourage the rest of the community to respect and support our heritage laws."

He said other organisations and people affected by the legislation had to go through procedures, including consideration by the State Heritage Committee before any property with a heritage listing could be demolished.

The State Government was completely ignoring, and was seeking

pletely ignoring, and was seeking to override, the provisions of the heritage legislation.

"It is a case of one law for the people and another for the Government," he said.

"In the light of his involvement in this matter. Dr. Hangood has a

in this matter, Dr Hopgood has a responsibility to say whether he supports and is prepared to uphold our present heritage laws."

Mr Wotton said that while he had previously said A block had to be demolished, the Government should act according to established procedures rather than seek to undermine the Heritage List.

The News, Friday, Dec. 23, 1983tem.

Prisoners at Yatala Jail have an early Christmas present — a large, above-ground swimming pool.

The pool, erected on the north side of the prison, is compensation for loss of shade because of extensive redevelopment of the prison.

A Correctional Services Department spokesman said today the pool was "a basic humanitarian move"

By Tim Parker

With the demolition of the fire-gutted A Division, prisoners would have less building shade on hot

Jogging

The pool was a "temporary" addition to proaddition to provide some relief from the heat, although it had not been used.

Inmates eventually will more permanent swimming facilities at the prison.

The master plan for redevelopment includes an in-ground, concrete swim-ming pool, tennis courts, a gymnasium and a jogging

The plan, to cost \$13.2

million. originally scheduled over nine years, Was

However, the State Government said recently it would redevelop Yatala over four years.

A major priority is a new perimeter fence with a microwave detection sys-

Recreational facilities also will be provided for prison staff.

A department spokesman said it was not unusual for prisons to provide a swimming pool for inmates.

"Pentridge has four or five pools," the spokesman

Only one of those is above ground."

The spokesman said A Division had been a tall building, providing plenty of shade on hot days.

The temporary pool was a plastic-lined model. com-

The Advertiser, Adelaide, Saturday, January 7, 1984

Bungle halts work on Yatala A block

An administrative bungle has forced the State Government to halt all demolition work on Yatala Labor Prison's historic A block, pending a report on the matter.

The bungle, which came to light yesterday, has placed the Government in breach of the Planning Act and could leave it open to legal action by the Enfield Council.

Late yesterday the Minister of Public Works, Mr Wright, issued a three-sentence statement describing the bungle as a "procedural error" and saying he had called for a report.

In its hurry to demolish the building, the Government neglected to notify the council or the SA Planning Commission officially of the demolition, as required under the Act, until two days ago.

Demolition work - removal of the block's roof to allow heavy equipment inside the building — began last month and was to continue on Monday.

The Enfield mayor, Mr R. J. Norton, said yesterday the Government was "riding roughshod" over the council.

It had tried to "bulldoze" the whole project and had disregarded the National Trust and lengthy petitions urging that the building be saved.

The council would consider the matter at its next meeting on January 16 and might consider some form of protest to the Government.
"I would say the majority of council

members would be in favor of saving

the building," he said.
"We will certainly not be happy about the Government ignoring our legal right to comment on their plans."

Mr Wright said he had called a halt to further demolition work pending receipt of the report. In the meantime, the council and the SAPC had been served with notification under Section 7 (2) of the Planning Act 1982

The building, built in 1880, was

By Suburban Reporter CHRIS RUSSELL

placed on the State Heritage Register in 1980. It is also classified by the National Trust of SA.

An Enfield and Districts Historical Society spokesman, Mr D. A. Robinson, said yesterday the bungle showed the Government was prepared to break the law in its haste to demolish SA's biggest colonial building.

He said the building was "beautiful" and urged "every South Australian to view the building from Grand Junction Road" and call for it to be saved.

The society and the recently formed Aurora Heritage Action group will discuss further action to save A block tomorrow

The Opposition spokesman on planning, Mr Wotton, was unavailable yesterday but former Attorney-General Mr Griffin said the matter was

a "sad reflection on this Government." "The Government ought to respect the law as much as ordinary citizens have to respect the law," he said.
Under Section 7 of the Planning Act

the council has two months to comment on a Crown proposal to the SAPC which must then report to the Minister for Environment and Planning before a development proposal can proceed.

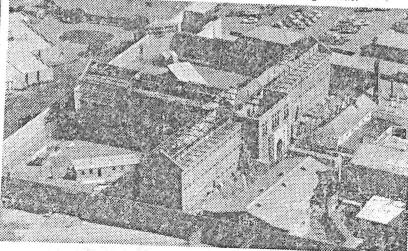
Virtually any work on A block is defined as "development" under the Act because of its listing on the Heritage Register.

Heritage Register.

The Minister for Environment and Planning, Dr Hopgood, has said the Government was being "honest" by leaving the building on the Register until it was demolished because it was a continuous to deny the building's not trying to deny the building's

heritage value.

The Chief Secretary, Mr Keneally, has said the Government was "adamant" the building must come down despite its heritage value.



Yatala's A block without its roof.

ENFIELD & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

124—SUNDAY MAIL, January 8, 1984

NOTE

ENFIELD AND DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. AND AURORA HERITAGE ACTION.

Dear South Australians, We have been informed that the South Australian Government intends demolishing historic 'A' division of Yatala Labour Prison on 9th Jan., 1984. This building is the most imposing and best example of original South Australian Colonial times and its retention is essential, It should be safe as it is:-

1. STILL on the State Heritage register,

Has a National Trust rating.
Professional people have informed us it was NOT bodly damaged in the fire last March.

WHAT GOOD IS THE HERITAGE ACT IF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HISTORY CAN BE DEMOLISHED BY THE GOVERNMENT WITHOUT REDRESS!

If you are concerned ring Denis Robinson 271 4127 12 noon-6 p.m. today, 261 3099 Mon.-Frid. 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

P.S. Take a drive out to G.J. Road, Northfield and have a look at this historic building.

Be Quick!

duestions asked over Yatala

The Advertiser, Saturday, January 7, 198

The Advertiser, Thursday, January 12, 1984

amazing to me that people can be so concerned about bricks and mortar and apparently not care for the well-being of fellow human beings.

How can a caring person refer to the building as "beautiful," no matter how aesthetically it may please the eyes, knowing it is merely a collection of antiquated brick and steel cages used to house misery and despair and steel cages used to nouse misery and despair and human suffering, through its equally antiquated and appalling physical living conditions more suited to animal than human habita. mal than human habitation.

In fact, if it had been used to house animals there would have been a hue and cry from the public that the conditions were too bad. Perhaps if Mr Robinson, from the Enfield and Districts Historical Society. tricts Historical Society, had viewed the building from the inside, as an inmate, he would not regard it as very beautiful.
And if the Enfield

mayor is genuinely con-

cerned about legalities, why is it that his council has allowed the existence of 400 men in his ence of 400 men in his council area to live in quarters for 18 hours a day without the legally required sanitary conditions of running water and toilets in cells — only hydrets. buckets. If Joe Citizen attempt-

ed to accommodate any person without adequate running water or toilet facilities the council would bring swift prosecution to bear.

The building is being demolished to make way for a much-needed recreational area where men can work off their excess energy and frustrations with some healthy exercise, which even animals need. We South Australians have slid a long way in our values when we start putting buildings before people.

Mrs BEVERLEY J. GOODE, Northfield.

Sir — The silence from Mr Keneally re "A" Block Yatala both insuits and shows that big brother is already at work in this State.

I wish to ask the following questions:

• What is to become of the hundreds of tonnes of today's prestige building materials, namely quality bluestone, hand quarried at Yatala more than 100 years ago? Why save only a small percentage? Who gets the balance and at what price?

• What has happened to the valuable 19th century locks and doors, et cetera, already removed? Have they been sold, stolen or conveniently disappeared into the bureaucratic dustbin?

Are the real answers to the above questions the reason that Mr Keneally is adamant that "A" block is removed regardless of its Heritage listing?

• Will the Attorney-General prosecute for the destruction of the building while it has a Heritage listing?

RON BONNER, Enfield and District Historical So-President, ciety Inc.

ENFIELD & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The Advertiser, Thursday, January 12, 1984 11

Heritage commission telexes Keneally on Yatala issue

mission has sent an urgent telex to the Chief Secretary, Mr Keneal-ly, seeking information about the proposed demolition of Yatala Labor Prison's historic A block.

Humane

Sir - I refer to the

objections voiced (The Advertiser, 7/1/84) to the

humane demolition of A Block at Yatala. It is

thought

The commission's chairman, Dr Kenneth Wiltshire, said in Bris-bane yesterday the commission had been told nothing officially about plans for the building, which is on the National Estate.

He said if the State Government

By Suburban Reporter CHRIS RUSSELL

planned to demolish the building without telling the commission he would be "considerably concerned" and would seek urgent discussions with the Government.

The commission had sent the telex late yesterday.

It had no legal power to protect the building, but the commission had considerable expertise it

could offer to help work out alternative plans for the site.

It could also try to negotiate to help save the building.

A spokesman for the Enfield & Districts Historical Society, Mr D. A. Robinson, said it had sent material about the building to the commission this week.

A spokesman for Mr Keneally

33832

said late yesterday he was not aware if the telex had arrived.

Demolition work on the building, which began last month and was due to resume on Monday, has been halted because of an administrative bungle in which the Government breached a section of the Planning Act.

The Government must now wait for the Enfield Council to report to the SA Planning Commission on the demolition "proposal" and for the SAPC to report to the Minister for Environment and Planning, Dr Hopgood.

Outcry over Govt move enforcing A-block demolition

The Advertiser, Friday, January 13, 1984

By Suburban Reporter CHRIS RUSSELL

ENFIELD & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

The News Thur. 12. Jan 1984

By Tom Menzies

The SA Government today granted itself exemption from the Planning Act to allow demolition of Yatala Prison's historic A block.

The move has outraged the Enfield Council and heritage groups fighting to save the building since the prison redevelopment was first announced last

A week ago demolition work was halted when it was discovered the Government was in breach of the Planning Act.

It had failed to notify the Enfield Council or the SA Planning Commission officially of the demolition within the time specified

by the Act.
The building, built in 1880, was placed on the State Heritage Register in 1980. It also is classified by the National Trust of SA.

It was gutted by fires lit during unrest in the jail last year.

This morning the Environment and Planning Minister, Dr Hopgood, said demolition work on the fire-damaged building would begin immediately.

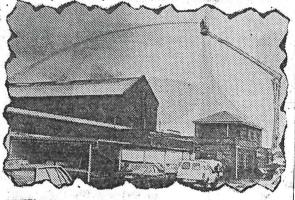
'Fed up'

"Cabinet has "Cabinet has resolved the demolition of A division and other urgent redevelopment work at the Yatala Prison Reserve will be exempt from the pro-visions of the Planning Act, under Section 6," he said.

"Last week the Government discovered it had in- Monday and was to have advertently overlooked a discussed some form of requirement under the Planning Act.

"The error would have building.

The Government had fectively delayed the Now, according to the itself beyond control. effectively



•FLASHBACK to the fire in A block.

demolition of A division mayor, Mr R.

for at least three months.

The exemption decision reflected the Government's determination to press ahead with its prison re-

"South Australians are fed up with the continuing problems at Yatala," he

Even though A division was on the State Heritage Council today. List its heritage significance was outweighed by the need for prison re-form and security considerations.

Enfield Council meets on protest to the Government and ways of saving the

the council will discuss legal action to prevent the Government "changing the

rules" in the future.

The council is power-less against the Government's move.

The exemption proclamation was issued by the Governor, Sir Donald in Dunstan, Executive

It already has been gazetted.

The Opposition spokes-man on legal affairs, Mr Griffin, said the Government had acted without with the consultation parties involved. granted a licence to the bulldozers to move in.

The Government had put

An SA Government move yester day allowing it to demolish Yatak Labor Prison's historic A block has brought an immediate reaction from the local council and heritage

Demolition of the block may resume today or next week after the move in which the prison has been exempted from provisions of the Planning Act.

The director of the SA National Trust, Mr B. T. Hodson, said the Government's action seemed "unnecessarily high-handed."
The mayor of Enfield, Mr R. J. Norton, said

he was "astounded" and a spokesman for the Enfield and Districts Historical Society, Mr D. A. Robinson, said he was "flabbergasted."

The Minister for Environment and Planning, Dr Hopgood, said the Government had "inadvertently overlooked a procedural requirement" of the Planning Act which would have delayed demolition for "at least three

"The decision to exempt all urgent re-development work at Yatala from the provi-sions of the Planning Act reflects the Government's determination to press ahead with its prison reforms," he said.

"South Australians are fed up with the

continuing problems at Yatala.

"Given the urgent need for prison redevelopment and security improvements at Yatala, any delays would be unacceptable."

The exemption, under Section 6 of the Act, was made by the Governor, Sir Donald Dunstan, in the Executive Council yesterday.

The block, built in 1880, is on the National Estate, the State Heritage Register and is classified by the National Trust. Its demolition began last month and was intended to

resume on Monday this week. Mr Norton said the Government's move rendered the State Heritage Act "totally worthless" and the Planning Act "totally pointless."

It showed George Orwell's predictions for 1984 were coming true.

"They could put up a 10-storey building there now with the local community having no say," he said.

Mr Robinson said the Government was making up the rules to suit itself. It should have been setting an example to

others on heritage matters - instead it was taking part in "historical vandalism.

The Opposition spokesman on legal matters, Mr Griffin, said the Government was prepared "to eliminate 100 years of our heritage by a stroke of the pen."

"The public should be incensed about this abuse of the process to satisfy the unreasonable demands of a few prisoners," he said.

Mr Hodson said the Premier, Mr Bannon, and Dr Hopgood had still not replied to letters of protest the trust had sent seeking further

of protest the trust had sent seeking further information on the demolition.

He said the letters had been acknowleged

Work starts on A Block

Preliminary demolition work began on A Block at Yatala Labor Prison yes-terday. The cell block was severely damaged by fire during a prison riot last year and has been unoccupied since. Work began about 8.30 a.m. when demolition crews began to breach the walls surrounding the block to give large vehicles and heavy equipment access.

The Advertiser, Tuesday, January 17, 1984 13-

Enfield Council will protest on A block

Enfield City Council will write to State MPs to protest about the way it has been treated by the State Government over demolition of Yatala Labor Prison's A block.

At last night's council meeting, the mayor, Mr R. J. Norton, said the Government had used the Governor, Sir Donald Dunstan, as a "political tool."

He said that as a result of the Government's move to be exempted from provisions of the Planning Act, the Government

ENFIELD & DISTRICTS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

could now do anything it liked simply by gaining another exemption.

Last week the Government was granted an exemption to the Planning Act so it could demolish A block after it discovered it had overlooked a procedural requirement under the Act.

by the Governor in the Executive Council, exempts all urgent redevelopment work at Yatala from the provisions of the Planning Act.

Alderman R. H. C. Bonner said the Government had used "devious means" to preclude the council from any participation in discussion over the future of the cell block.

The council had a duty to protest "in the strong-

The Government had made a "a laughing stock" of democracy.

The exemption, granted

est possible terms."

Meeting on Yatala block

A public meeting to discuss the future of Yatala Labor Prison's historic A Block will be held at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the Grand Junction Road entrance to

The Enfield and Districts Historical Society has organised the gathering following a meeting of its executive on Saturday.

The State Government last week exempted the prison from provisions of the Planning Act which could have delayed the building's demolition for three months.

The exemption denies the Enfield Council and the SA Planning Commission the right to report to the Government on the demolition.

Major demolition work on the block, which is classified by the National Trust and on the National Estate and State Heritage registers, is likely to resume this week.

The Advertiser, Wednesday, January 18, 1984

Yatala 1ssue

Sir - It is interesting to note that those people most vocal in their desires to retain the "A" Division building at Yatala are not ex-inmates. No-one who has ever been incarcerated therein wants to preserve the building!

The main reason that I write, however, is to ask for the help of readers in locating any historical data, or information re-lating to the prisons and gaols of SA.

I recently did some historical research on the Adelaide Gaol and Yatala Prison. I found that there is a great shortage of photographs and general information concerning the very early days of the prison system in this State.

It would ask any read-

ers who can provide photographs, books, journals, or any material re-lating to the old gaols and prisons, to contact me. My phone number is in the telephone book, and I would be glad to call and pick up any material.

I am also interested in talking to officers who served in the prison system in the first 60 years of this century, and who may have interesting anecdotes to record for posterity

I am also seeking any information on the Redruth Gaol, where it was, what it was, when it was erected, and when it went out of service.

L. EDDIE. North Unley.

14 The Advertiser, Wednesday, January 18, 1984

Demolition of Yatala block to resume

Demolition of the historic A Block at Yatala Gaol will resume today despite 11th-hour claims yesterday that the State Government had been "dictatorial, undemocratic and devious" on the

The Government will retain about 65 p.c. to 70 p.c. of the stone.

A spokesman for the Minister of Public Works, Mr Wright, said the

demolition contractors were due to begin work today.

About 50 people attended a protest, organised by the Enfield and Districts Historical Society, at the prison entrance yesterday.

The society's chairman, Mr R. C. Bonner, said the society was not against prison reform but in favor of preserving local history.

The society was attempting to see the Minister for Environment

and Planning, Dr Hopgood, about and Flamming, Dr Hopgood, about the Government's circumvention of the Heritage Act by beginning demolition before A Block was removed from the State Heritage

Register.
"We consider it a dictatorial attitude, devious and most undemo-cratic," Mr Bonner said.

The mayor of Enfield, Mr R. J. Norton, said the Government had set a precedent for disregarding SA's heritage.

ENFIELD & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.





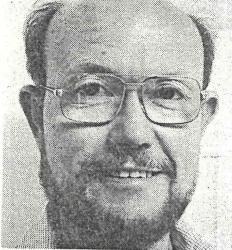




ENFIELD & DISTRICTS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

Public Macting
Thousday 17" Jan 198

Outery over moves to destroy block



 Enfield and Districts Historical Society publicity officer Denis Robinson..."flabbergasted" the Government's move.

"IT'S shades of Argentina."

That's how local historical group spokesman Denis Robinson described the latest moves by the State Government to demolish Yatala Labor Prison's controversial A Division.

In a surprise move to have the century-old gaol block destroyed as quickly as possible, the State Government exempted the building from usual Planning Act provisions.

The State Government believed the exemption, granted by the Governor Sir Donald Dunstan last week, was necessary for it to continue with its prison reforms.

An administrative bungle - overlooking to notify both Enfield Council and the SA Planning Commission of the de-molition work as required under the Planning Act threatened to halt work on the site for at least three months.

By MEREDITH GLASTONBURY

Enironment and Planning Minister Dr. Don-Hopgood said that given the urgent need for prison redevelopment "any delays would have been un-acceptable."

Yatala's A Division, built in 1880, is on the National Estate, the State Heritage Register and is classified by the National Trust.

Mr. Robinson, Enfield and Districts Historical Society publicity officer, said he was "flabbergasted" by the Government's move.

"If they can change one law overnight to suit themselves then what Robinson said.

other laws can they change," he said.

"It's undemocratic -they're just bulldozing their way through.

"It's a sneaky way of doing things.

Enfield and Distirct Historical Society has been protesting against the demolition of A Division for many months and in October presented the State Government with a petition signed by a large number of concerned residents.

"We haven't even received notification of receipt of the petition," Mr.



A tearsheet from The Standard last October when Enfield and Districts Historical Society stepped up its efforts to save Yatala's A block.

Yatala demolition angers local group

"IT'S shades of Argentina."

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By MEREDITH GLASTONBURY

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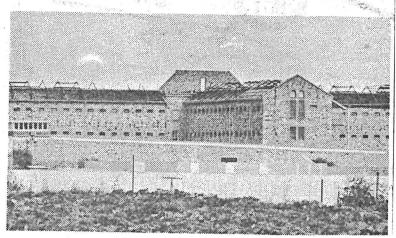
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Denis Robinson.



ENFIELD & DISTRICTS HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. By Ben Hickey

Government review committee has recommended outright prohibition of demolition of heritage buildings be made part of the Planning Act.

The State Planning Commission at present is required only to "consider" a building is a "conheritage item when it weighs decisions on applications for development.

Environment and Planning Minister, Dr Hopgood, said he had been surprised in view of publicity about preser-vation of heritage, no public comment so far had been made about the review committee's recommendation.

"The Government put that report out for public comment but so far it's been met with mas-sive silence," he said.

The report would form the basis of changes proposed for the Planning

Changes proposed would make it compulsory for the planning commission to reject demolition or substantial changes to heritage items.

He said he supported strengthening of legislation to protect heritage

Dr Hopgood agreed the



Dr Hopgood committee's review recommendations would not have saved the Aurora Hotel or the Yatala cell block.

The Aurora was covered by a different Act, and the Government had exempted itself from the Act to allow demolition of the

cell block.

He said the planning commission had taken the heritage significance of the Grange vineyard into "consideration" when assessing its sub-division application.

But a court had agreed with the developer other factors were more significant, and had reversed the decision.

LEGISLATION to protect the State's heritage simply made it more difficult to demolish historic buildings, a leading conservationist claimed yesterday.

"Listings on heritage lists make it more diffi-cult but not impossible to demolish buildings," said Conservation Council of SA president, Dr J. Coulter.

The community must be active long before the bulldozers begin to roll if it wants to save our heritage."

Dr Coulter's com-ments come after what conservationists regard as three battle defeats on heritage:

• The State Government decision to exempt itself from planning regulations to demolish a cell block at Yatala Jail.

 Demolition of the Aurora Hotel.

•Court-ordered subdivision of the Grange vineyards at Magill.

Dr Coulter said stronger legislation to protect heritage items should include heritage zonings where public hearings were required to change zonings.

SUNDAY MAIL, January 29, 1984-31

Adelaide's unique Edmund Wright House

could be a victim of the State Government's development plans.

An angry spokesman for three conservation groups, Mr Denis Robinson, said: "The Government has set its own precedent for demolishing anv historic public building by exempting itself from the law to pull down Yatala's A

"This building was on the State Heritage List and the Register of the By Eric Cummins

National Estate and held a National Trust rating.

Mr Robinson, an official spokesman for the Enfield and Districts His-torical Society also was speaking for the Aurora-Heritage Action Group Friends of the Grange Vineyard.

He said the Conservation Council of

shared concern over the Government's action at Yatala.

"The Government has demonstrated if it saw a need for demolishing Edmund Wright House in King William Street it would do so," he said.

"The Constitutional Museum could new be demolished under the precedent set by the Government to provide car parking.

"Even Parliament House could come down if the Government really believes the Festival Plaza should be extended."

Trust to get tough -see Page 33

Local history group slams Govt. exercise yard plan

A GROUP tirelessly campaigning to save Yatala Labor Prison's historic A block has slammed Government plans to use the area for an exercise yard.

Enfield and Districts Historical Society says the exercise yard planned will only increase the available recreation space by 35% and there will be no shade provided for prisoners using the area.

nis Robinson, who has been leading the campaign against demolishing A Division for more than six months, says the group is "all for prison

Society spokesman De- reform" but it can't increase an exercise yard understand the Govern- by only 35% when there ment's move.

"Why demolish a magnificent 100-year-old building with a volume equal to 60 houses to "building with a wolume equal to 60 houses to said."

"Why demolish a magnificent side of empty prison land the other side of the wall?," Mr. Robinson said.

> "There is already an announcement of decentralisation with recent news of a new medium security prison at Murray Bridge.

> Mr. Robinson said a large above-ground swim-ming pool has had to be erected at the prison to compensate inmates for a loss of shade from the building.

Yatala's A division is among the most highly classified buildings in SA - it's on the State Heritage Register, classified by the National Trust and is on the Register of the National Estate.

Yatala's A Division was build about 100 years ago, mostly by prison labor, and features walls more than a metre thick and high quality masonry, carpentry and ironwork.

"Our representations to Canberra brought a very rapid telex from the Australian Heritage Committee to the SA Government asking what

By MEREDITH GLASTONBURY

the heck they were Mr. Robinson doing, said.

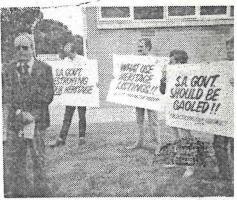
Early this month administrative bungles - failing to notigfy Enfield Council or the SA Planning Commission of demolition work at the site - halted work at the prison and forced the Government to exempt Yatala Labor Prison from conditions in the Planning Act.

"This type of action opens up a pandora's box and led to the society calling a public meeting at the Yatala Prison entrance at Grand Junction Road," Mr. Robinson said.

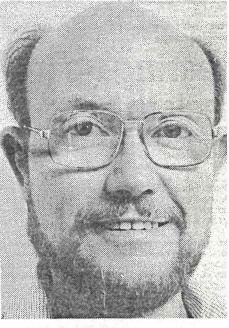
"I might add that several weeks ago this society would not have dreamt of a public protest - it's not our style - but drastic events demand drastic action."

The protest attracted about 50 people including Enfield Mayor Ray Norton, Historical Society president Ald. Ron Bon-ner, Aurora Heritage ner, Aurora Heritage Action group president Andrew Cawthorne, Friends of the Grange Vineyard president Dr. Dibden, Legislative Councillors Diane Laid-law and Robert Lucas and several Enfield coun-

Eight speakers addressed the meeting which critised the government's action.



 Friends of the Grange Vineyard president Bill Dibden addresses the Enfield and Distr Historical Society protest at Yatala Labor Pris



• Enfield and Districts Historicl Society spo man Denis Robinson.

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emolition work to begin

Demolition of the stone walls at Yatala Labor Prison's historic A Division is expected to begin on Monday.

The Public Buildings Department said yesterday workers had disconnected the building's water and sewerage and removed a large wire fence in preparation for the demolition.

A spokesman for Modbury Salvage Co. Pty Ltd, which won the demolition contract, said last night he expected work to be completed in "four to five weeks."

The State Government will retain between 65 p.c. and 70 p.c of the stone. The building's walls are estimated to contain more than 15,000 tonnes of stone.

The building was burnt out after prisoners went on a rampage about a year ago. in brief

