

To: The South Australian Heritage Committee

From: Senior Historical Architect

Subject: REGISTER NOMINATION REPORT -
FAMILY AND SHIPPING BUTCHER SHOP,
64 ELLEN STREET, PORT PIRIE

Date: 24 May 1982

Summary

This report has been prepared as a result of the Port Pirie National Trust expressing concern over the future of a number of buildings of Heritage Significance in Port Pirie. The building has been nominated by a resident of Port Pirie. There does not appear to be any immediate threat to the Butcher Shop, apart from future possible pressure to modernise its appearance. The present occupant is proud of its appearance and conscious of its history.

Historically, the Butcher Shop is significant as an example of a shop built in 1877 during a time of the township's development as a regional centre for surrounding agricultural settlement. The shop is associated with one of Port Pirie's more prominent citizens, Capt. Sampson, whose descendants continued the business. The heads represent the penchant for commercial symbolism during the Victorian era, providing a whimsical contrast to the more usual heroic statuary displayed on other types of commercial buildings.

Architecturally, the Butcher Shop is unique, both in the local and the state context, for its flemish gables with their animal heads.

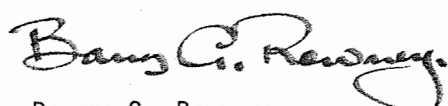
Environmentally, the Butcher Shop provides distinctive entity while also forming an integral part of an important line of shops along Pt. Pirie's main street.

The Integrity of the Butcher Shop is relatively intact externally, while certain internal modifications to the shop's fittings have compromised the interior.

The building is listed on the Classified List of the National Trust and on the National Estate Register.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Family's Shipping Butcher Shop, 64 Ellen Street, Port Pirie, be placed on the Register of State Heritage Items and be categorized A1, A2, H3.



Barry G. Rowney

11:JD

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures					
	Item RICHIES FAMILY AND SHIPPING BUTCHERS, 64 ELLEN STREET, PORT PIRIE. (Sampsons Family & Shipping Butcher)					
Age 1877-80	Theme	Office				
Period 1852-1883	Subject TRADE AND COMMERCE - RETAIL	Region Upper North				
Building Type Shop	Style VICTORIAN	Status N.Tr. (CL) N.E.R.				
<u>Qualitative Data</u>		<u>Grading</u>				
Component	Comment	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
<u>History</u>						
1. Context:	Built at a time of rapid settlement in the areas around Port Pirie and during a period of business prosperity within the township, located on Ellen Street, the main street of the town, and representing an increasingly rare example of building during the era.		*			
2. Person/Group:	Commenced by Capt. R. Sampson and Mr. J. Close, who established branches at Laura and Gladstone. Continuously used as a butcher shop to the present.			*		
3. Event:	No known event					*
<u>Architecture</u>						
4. Architect/Builder:	Not yet established. <i>Owner advises that Architect/Builder was Finner and Jenkins.</i>					*
5. Design:	Three shops with residence at rear. Triple Flemish gables with inset animals heads, pig, bull and sheep, cast iron grilles above and below shop windows, bull-nosed verandah, thought to have a tunnel connecting it to the wharf nearby.	*				
6. Construction:	Dressed stone facade with stucco detailing to gables. Timber verandah posts and dentil trim to fascia of bull-nose verandah.		*			
7. Interior:	Shops upgraded unsympathetically, rear quarters not accessible.				*	
8. Representation:	Rare for its external detailing.		*			

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures Item RICHIES FAMILY AND SHIPPING BUTCHERS, PORT PIRIE.						
Component		Comment	Grading E VG AG FP NA				
<u>Environment</u>			E	VG	AG	FP	NA
9. Continuity:	Part of continuous traditional commercial streetscape with strong heritage significance.		*				
10. Local Character:	Element in an area of significant early buildings, commercial on one side with public buildings opposite which include the Railway Station, Customs Building, Post Office, Police Station and Town Hall.		*				
11. Landmark:	An important visual landmark in the town.		*				
<u>Integrity</u>							
12. Alterations:	One of the three shops is being used as a workroom for the butchers shop. The interior of the shops have been modernised. The external appearance is practically original,			*			
13. Condition:	Some cracking but basically sound.				*		
14. Compatibility:	Has been used and maintained as a butchers shop for over 100 years.		*				
<u>Supplementary Information</u>							
<p>Adaptation: Any alterations should be within the existing form and facade of the shop. Restoration of the shop interior should be encouraged. Restrictions should not apply to the residential portion.</p> <p>Interpretation: The butchers shop has a passive interpretive role within the landscape enhanced by its proximity to several other historically important buildings' the Railway Station and Police Station now a National Trust Museum.</p> <p>Current Situation: The building is not under threat and existing use is likely to continue. The present owner is Richard H. Sampson.</p>							
Evaluated By	Carolyn Wigg Consultant Architect	Iris Iwanicki Register Historian	Date				
Reviewed By	Ivar Nelsen						Date
South Australian Heritage Committee Categorization							Date

I.E.S./D3/211081

HISTORICAL RESEARCH: FAMILY BUTCHER SHOP, 64 ELLEN STREET, PORT PIRIE

The Family Butcher Shop, located on the main street of Port Pirie on Part Section 48 (Certificate of Title 1758/15) was built for the firm of Sampson and Close, shipping and family butchers. The firm, founded in 1864 according to the inscription on the building's pediment, established branches at Gladstone and Laura. Originally the two partners appear to have operated their business elsewhere, as the butcher shop was not opened in Pt. Pirie until 1887. After initially renting the site, the land was purchased and original premises replaced by the present shop which was "fitted out with all the latest appliances, gas engine, cold storage conveniences etc. (Burgess, 1907, Vol. 11, p.543). Local tradition relates that a tunnel went from the shop beneath Ellen Street to open at the wharf to facilitate the loading and unloading of carcasses. However, Burgess is silent on this aspect of the building and it is possible that the tunnel may have been a part of the earlier building. The owners appear to have been geographically quite separate, despite the date of their partnership in 1864. Captain Richard Sampson arrived in South Australia from Cornwall in 1873. His partner, Mr. John Close, originally lived in Strathalbyn and joined Capt. Sampson in Pt. Pirie in 1887.

The shop's unusual appearance and date of construction identify it as a local landmark, which has continued as a butcher shop up to the present time. Only recently has it been leased from the Sampson family to a new proprietor.

Sources:

- Burgess: Cyclopaedia of S.A., 1907.
Branson, Vernon Mostyn, Port Pirie Sketchbook, V.M. Branson & R. Millstead, Adel., Rigby 1976.
McCarthy, J.A., Two Country regions/J.A. McCarthy & E.M. Treagus, Adel. Barara, 1969. (Whyalla) (Pt. Augusta) (Pt. Pirie).
Nat. Trust of S.A. Port Pirie Branch: The Port Pirie Story: from settlement to city by Ald. J.L. Williams for the Trust, 1976.
Nancy Robinson, Reluctant Harbour: the romance of Pirie, Nadjuri Australia, 1976.
Donley, R.J.R., The Rise of Port Pirie, Pt. Pirie Automatic Printing Co., 1975.
D.U.R.A., Port Pirie Conservation Study, Lester, Firth & Murton Pty. Ltd., 1980

Iris Iwanicki
Register Historian

10/5/82

PORT PIRIE CONSERVATION STUDY

lester firth & murton pty ltd

architects urban planners and environmental consultants

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data sheet

no. 1

Name : BUTCHER SHOP
Type : Building

Location :
Legal and Physical 64 Ellen Street

Owner :
Address :

Physical description :

Date built
Designer and Builder
Owners and Uses
Materials
Details
Style and Features
Alterations and Additions
Plan and Form
Condition
Illustrations

Located on Allotment 48, the site of an early butcher's house (Ethelbert Hewett, February 1873), this Family and Shipping Butcher's business was established in 1864. If the bull-nosed verandah straddling the footpath and the building are contemporary, then they date from the 1880's. The shop front is three-fold consisting of a central flat section set back from the footpath and separated by piers from two flanking shopfronts consisting of doors recessed in splayed bays. These recessed shop fronts are becoming rarer in Port Pirie as more owners replace them with modern flush glazed aluminium.

The three bays of the shop front are reflected in the gabled pediment which consists of a central Dutch gable flanked by two shaped false gables. Each of the gables is topped by a simple stone finial, and each contains an elaborate medallion surrounded by stucco scrolls. The three medallions contain the sculptured heads of a sheep, a pig and a cow - in recognition of the buildings function.

The simple verandah (no cast-iron infill) also had three bays (one of the posts is missing). The verandah fascia has timber dentils - that emphasise the rhythm of the verandah's corrugations.

PORT PIRIE CONSERVATION STUDY

ster firth & murton pty ltd

architects urban planners and environmental consultants

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data sheet

no. 2

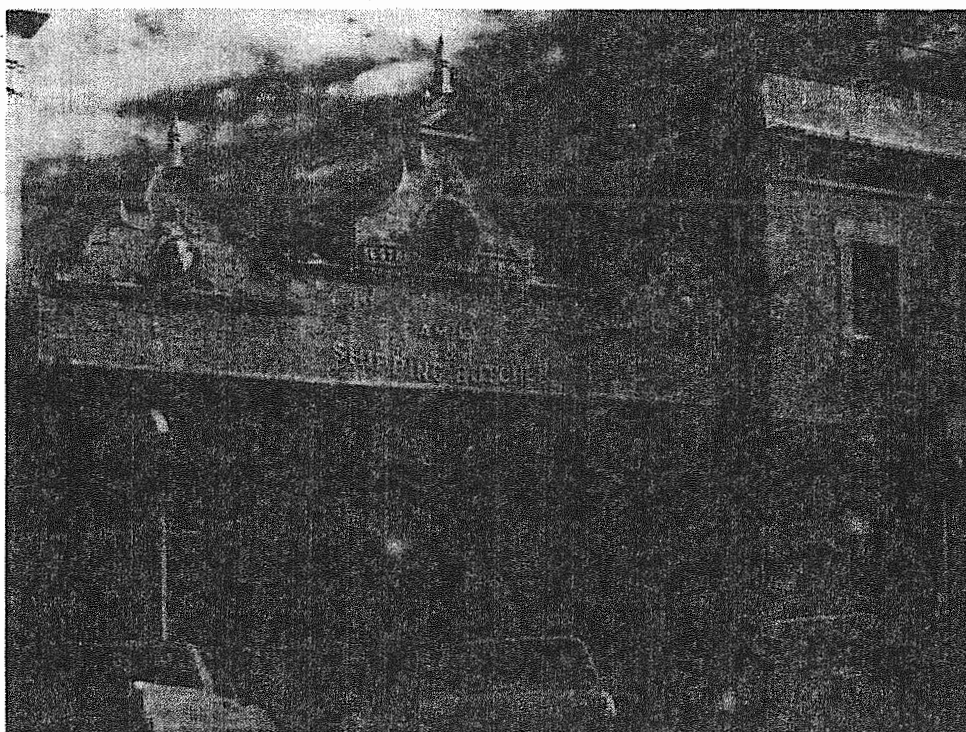
endorsements :

None

eritage Value :

istorical
ocial and Cultural
reative and Technical
esthetic
ite integrity
atural
boriginal

Apart from the general contribution to the footpath and streetscape, the whimsical sculptured heads on the pediment are certainly worthy of preservation.



omments :

urrent situation
nder threat

Retain; repair damaged verandah etc.

ecommendations :

nformation Sources :

Reluctant Harbour

Compiler and date :





BUTCHERY SHOP, ART PIRIG
4581-10790



BUTCHER SHOP, PORT PIRIE
6531-10990



FAMILY & SHIPPING BUTCHER SHOP Port Pirie

Built in the 1880s for Sampson and Close, shipping and family butchers. Inset sculptured heads of a sheep, pig and cow represent the penchant for commercial symbolism during the Victorian era. They provide a whimsical contrast to the more usual heroic statuary displayed on other types of commercial buildings.