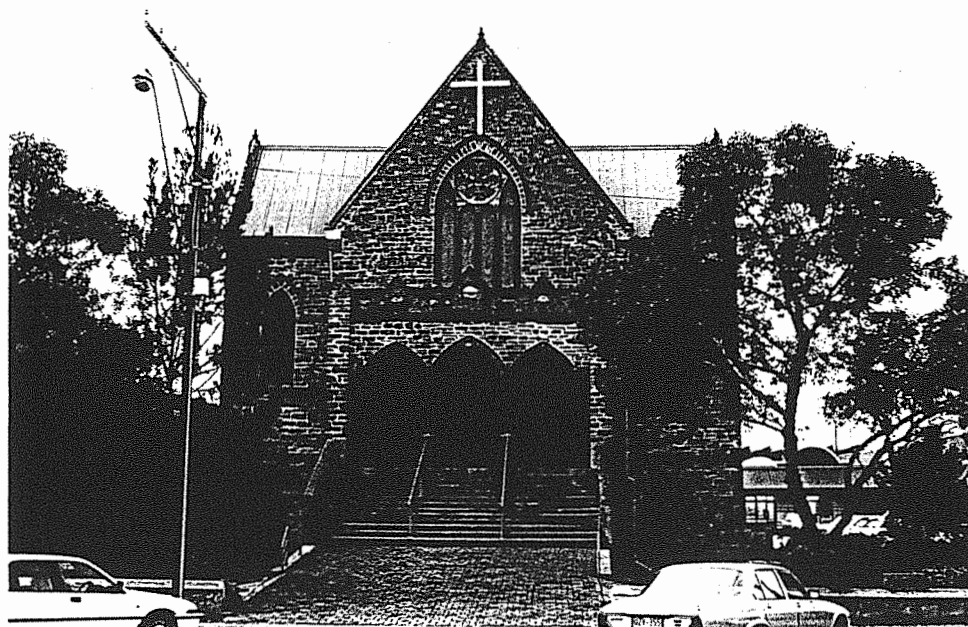


UNITING CHURCH (former Congregational Church) 169 COMMERCIAL ROAD



C.T: 1243/51 Section 2112/Lot 77 to 80

HERITAGE LISTINGS: State Heritage Register - listing deferred 1992.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The Uniting Church, constructed in 1868, is an imposing landmark along Commercial Road and represents the growth of Port Adelaide during the 1860s and 70s (in parallel with the city). Architecturally, it is an important work of James MacGeorge, a notable South Australian architect, and displays many striking stylistic details from the Gothic Revival.

RELEVANT CRITERIA:

- a) demonstrates important aspects of the State's history and exemplifying the importance of the Congregational faith during the settlement of the Port Adelaide Area.
 - d) is an excellent example of an 1860s Church of the Gothic Revival design as interpreted by a notable colonial architect, James MacGeorge.
 - e) demonstrates a high degree of aesthetic accomplishment in the manner in which Gothic Revival details have been used within the Church structure at such an early stage in South Australia's ecclesiastical development.
 - f) it is a landmark building in Port Adelaide and a significant element of the Commercial Road landscape.
-

RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the Uniting Church (former Congregational Church) be entered in the State Heritage Register.

UNITING CHURCH (former Congregational Church) 169 COMMERCIAL ROAD (cont)

ANALYSIS:

Historical - This church was constructed during 1867 and 1868 for the Congregationalists in Port Adelaide. The architect was James MacGeorge, who had been practising in South Australia since 1854, and was responsible for several other churches in Adelaide including the Wakefield Street Presbyterian Church and Maugham Methodist Church in Franklin Street (since demolished).

The Congregationalists bought a large block of land along Commercial Road from the Port Land Company (near Dunn & Sons new Mill) in 1866, after the church they had built on the corner of St Vincent Street and Lipson Street burnt down in April of that year. Following MacGeorge's design, Mr Frank Reynolds built the church during 1867-8. The foundation stone was laid on 16 July 1867 and the church opened on 13 December 1868. The cost was reported to be a total of £6,000. Newspaper articles of both occasions indicated the social importance of the building and its imposing nature. Approximately 2,600 people attended service throughout the opening day - the building could seat up to 800 people, utilising the large gallery.

The Church became the focus of the Congregational community worship from its opening and was headed by significant Ministers over time. The Reverend Matthew Henry Hodge, was the first minister of the Congregationalists in Port Adelaide and began work there in 1849, continuing until 1877. He was involved in the construction of three of the buildings used by the church.

The Reverend Joseph Coles Kirby was the third pastor from 1880-1908. An extremely active and forceful man, he developed the various agencies of the church including the Young Christians Union and the Young Mens Christian Society and the Sunday School at this church. He was closely involved in the movement for Women's Suffrage and other areas of education and became a leader in the social reform movement of South Australia, bringing about the closure of about one third of Port Adelaide's hotels and arranging for Sunday closing and the abolition of bar maids. He was also involved in prison reform and Aboriginal welfare and in 1916 he was largely responsible for bringing about 6.00pm closing throughout South Australia. Pastors who followed Kirby continued the expansion of the church both physically and spiritually, and other branches were started in Semaphore and surrounding suburbs.

This building became the focus for the new Uniting Church in 1976, combining the congregations of the Presbyterians, Methodist and the Congregationalists in Port Adelaide. It continues as the main Uniting Church for the district today.

Architectural - The building was constructed of Dry Creek sandstone, with plain and moulded brick dressings. External embellishment included spandrels pointed with dark blue mortar and brick work in the arches painted red and black alternately, creating obviously a colourful effect. The eaves of the roof were supported by "a cornice of blue and red bricks arranged in a very ornamental manner".

UNITING CHURCH (former Congregational Church) 169 COMMERCIAL ROAD (cont)

An account in the *Register* of 7 December 1868 reports:

"From the Port, a good broadside view of the Church is obtained, and being 135ft long x 65ft high it is a prominent feature in the blue. Its high gables, ornamented roof and pointed windows give it an extremely pleasing contour which is, if possible heightened on nearer inspection when the gabled roof mouldings and ornamental work become more apparent. When the entire plan is completed by the addition of a tower and spire which is an ultimate idea, nothing will be left to be desired. The style of architecture forms a composition of novel and quite original design with great variety of outline. Its exterior is relieved by many erections and the roof is broken into numerous gables and an octagonal attic all embellished with open pressed tiling, belted slates, disposed in diamonds and dormer ventilated. The principal front which faces the Port Road is approached by a broad flight of steps and the entrance is protected by an elegant porch of three arches over which in the high gable is a handsome window of rose form."

This is indicative of the landmark quality the building has had from the time when it was first built. Unfortunately, the plans for tower and spire have not been carried out.

This *Register* report goes on to describe the interior of the church in great detail, much of which has been altered over time.

The slate roof has been replaced by corrugated iron and some of the highly decorative paint work has faded over time, but essentially the church remains intact. There is a small brick parish office located behind the Church, off Charlotten Street. The Church retains a 1920s Hume strapped iron fence on the Charlotten Street alignment.

Sources:

South Australian Register, 16 July 1867

South Australian Register, 17 July 1867

South Australian Register, 7 December 1868

South Australian Register, 14 December 1868

Jubilee History of the Church, 1899

Berry, Polomka, *et al*, Uniting Church in Port Adelaide, *Conservation Plan*, June 1984.

UNITING CHURCH (former Congregational Church) 169 COMMERCIAL ROAD (cont)

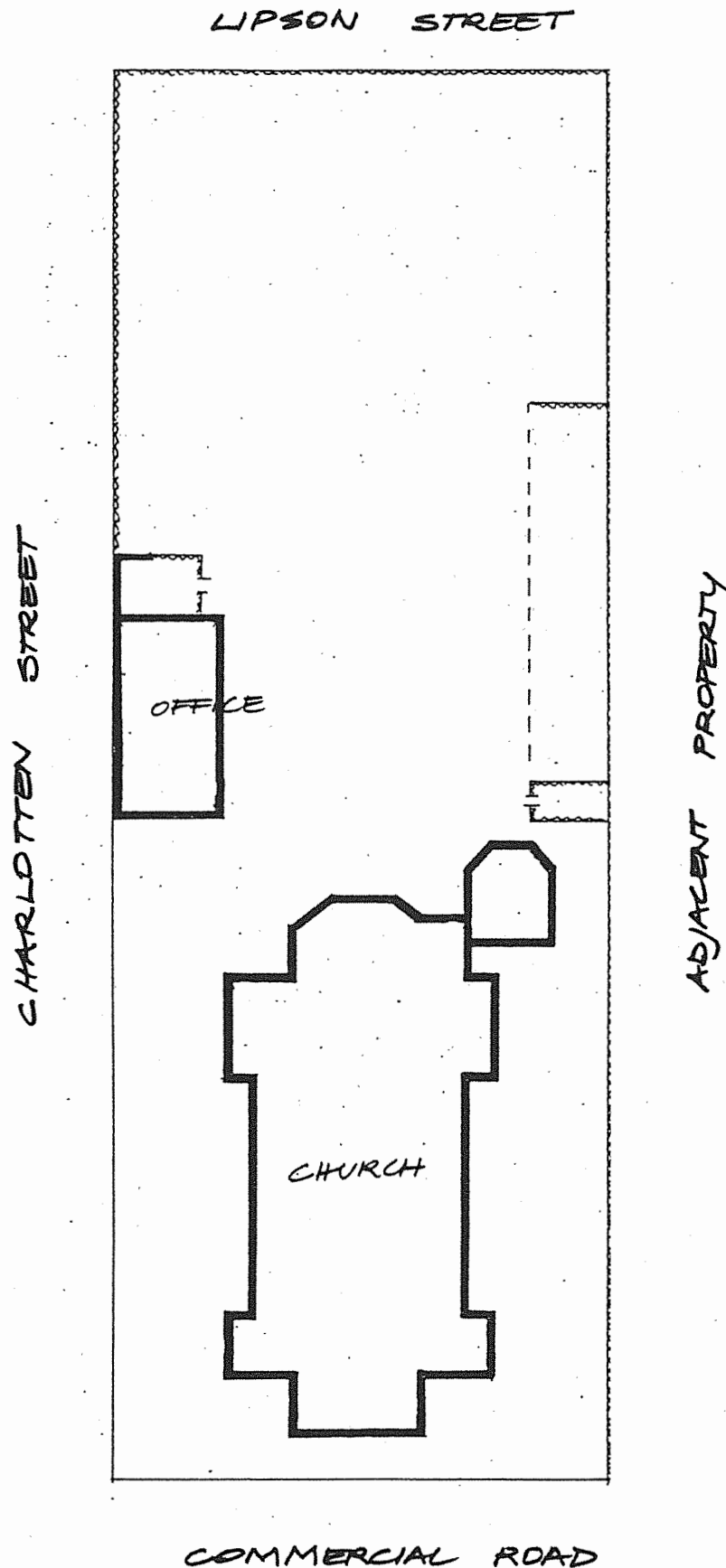
Site Record

Church - Uniting Church (former Congregational Church)

169 Commercial Road
Port Adelaide SA 5015

Location	169 Commercial Road, Port Adelaide (corner Charlotten Street)
Description	Two storeyed stone church with basement, office to north
Boundary	Church to Commercial Road and office facing Charlotten Street
Land Description	CT 1243/51 Lot 77-80, Section 2112
Local Government	City of Port Adelaide
Owner	Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust 33 Pirie Street ADELAIDE SA 5000
Use	Church and office
Condition	Generally sound
Other Assessments	State Heritage Branch Assessment, File No. 11189
Heritage Status	Listing Deferred 1992

UNITING CHURCH (former Congregational Church)
169 COMMERCIAL ROAD (cont)



SITE PLAN - CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BUILDING

The present building is the fourth structure occupied for worship by the Congregationalists at Port Adelaide.

Meetings were first held in the loft of the Sailmakers Shop in Lipson Street. In 1849, a Chapel was built for the sum of £212-16-0 by Builders William Galway (Junior) and James Miller, on the corner of Lipson Street and St. Vincent Street.

On 8th December, 1851, the foundation stone of a new Chapel in St. Vincent Street (to the west of the previous Chapel) was laid. The Builder of this larger structure seating 500 people and with a Schoolroom underneath was Walter Smith, and the opening ceremony was held on the 5th January, 1855. (It is interesting to note that the long construction period was due to a lapse in building caused through men leaving for the gold fields in Victoria.) This building was burnt down on 30th April, 1866.

Not long afterwards, on the 16th July, 1867 the foundation stone of the present Church was laid. Mr. George P. Hodge was the Church Secretary. The Architect was Mr. James MacGeorge of Adelaide and the Builder Mr. F. Reynolds of Port Adelaide (Foreman Mr. Tomsett). The new church was opened on Sunday 13th December, 1868 at a total cost of approximately £6,000 raised entirely from Community subscriptions, the sale of the sites of former Chapels, insurance from the burnt Chapel, sale of fittings and building materials demolished from the ruin.

The Church remains today as it was built, with the exception of the roof which was originally clad with slate and is now sheeted with corrugated galvanised iron. The building is of Dry Creek sand-stone with plain and moulded brick dressings. Contemporary descriptions noted that "....the spandrils being sunk and pointed with dark blue mortar. The brickwork in the arches is painted red and black alternately."...."A pretty effect is produced by the eaves of the roof being supported by a cornice of blue and red bricks arranged in a very ornamental manner."

A century of grime build up in an atmosphere of high pollution content now covers and disguises the liveliness of this decoration - but it is still there.

Tenders were invited for the design of the Church and the plans of Architect, Mr. James MacGeorge were accepted. He arrived in Adelaide and began practice as an Architect in 1854. Other buildings designed by him were the Savings Bank of South Australia building in King William Street, now very much altered and occupied by the Tourist Bureau; St. Peter's Presbyterian Church in Wakefield Street (which has now lost its spire and is no longer a church), and Maughan Church in Franklin Street now demolished. He designed and built a house for himself at 230 Stanley Street, North Adelaide in 1862. This house was later sold and extended by Architect E.J. Woods in approximately 1881 by the addition of the western wing for the new owner David Muray. James MacGeorge was a founder of the South Australian Society of Arts.

The present Church is of a simple 'Gothic' style with a double-cross style plan being expressed externally by smaller gables to either side complementing the main gable front and octagonal rear apse.

The laying of the foundation stone in July 1867 was performed by Mr. Thomas Graves, and under the stone was placed in a cavity, a bottle containing various relics including copies of the "South Australian Register", and the "Advertiser" of the day, some coins and various documents. The opening of the new Church in December 1868 was a significant event in the City at the time with approximately 2,600 people attending services throughout the day. Reverend J. Henderson officiating at the evening service (with 1,000 people in attendance) made an important point which is as alive today as it was then:-

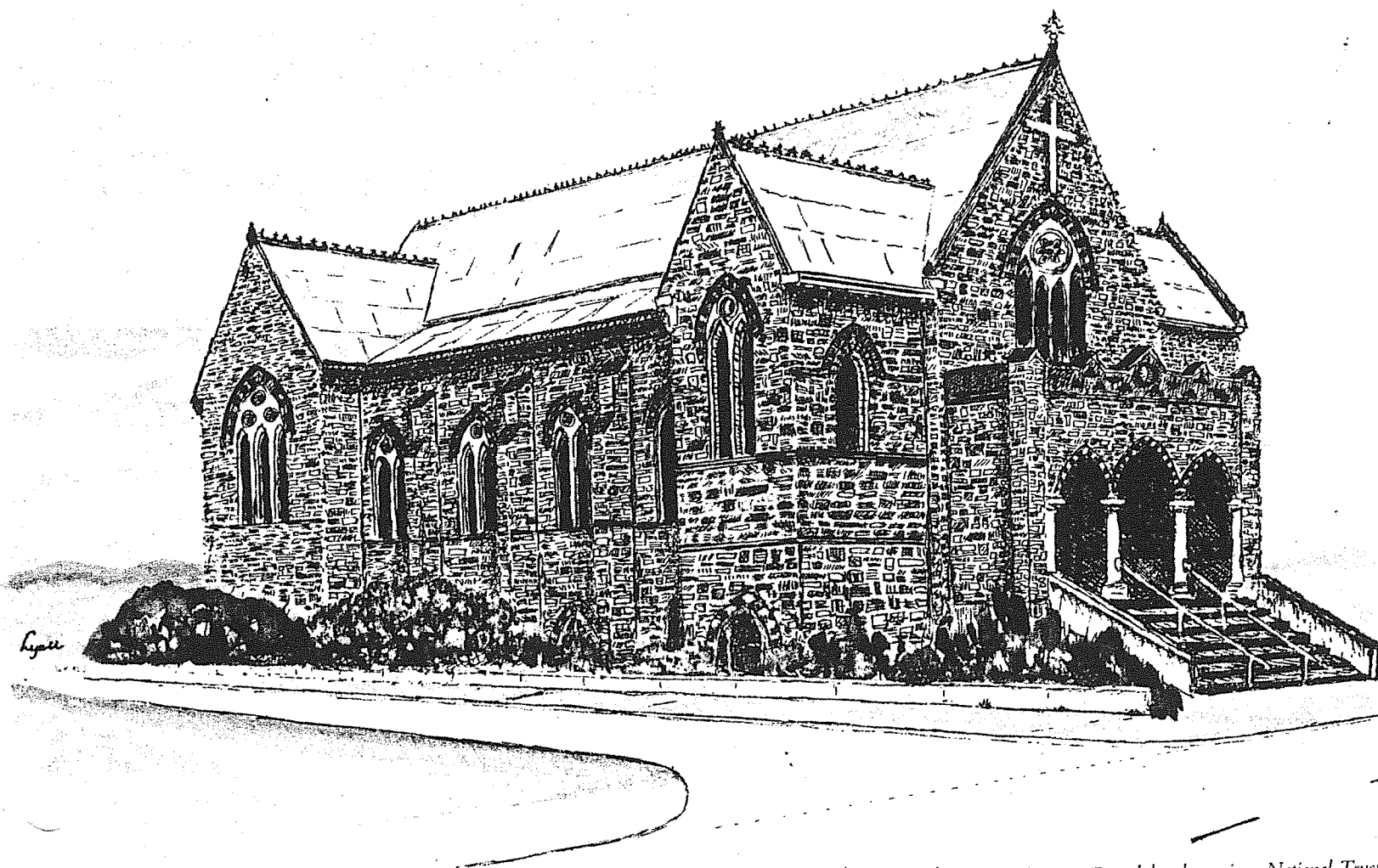
"In other structures there was the acknowledgement of our relationships to earth and time; but in Churches were the embodiment of ideas and aspirations which sweep the whole range of man's destiny, both for time and eternity."

The Reverend Matthew Henry Hodge took up the Ministry in Port Adelaide in 1849 and guided the development of his congregation until 1877 - this spanned the construction of three buildings and all of the formative years of the Church. Another important Minister was Reverend Joseph Coles Kirby who served from 1880 - 1908. He was a leader of the social reform movement in South Australia, bringing about the closure of one third of Port Adelaide's Hotels and was instrumental in arranging for Sunday closing and the abolition of barmaids. He was also involved in prison reform and Aboriginal Welfare. In 1916 he was largely responsible for the bringing about of 6 O'clock closing throughout South Australia.

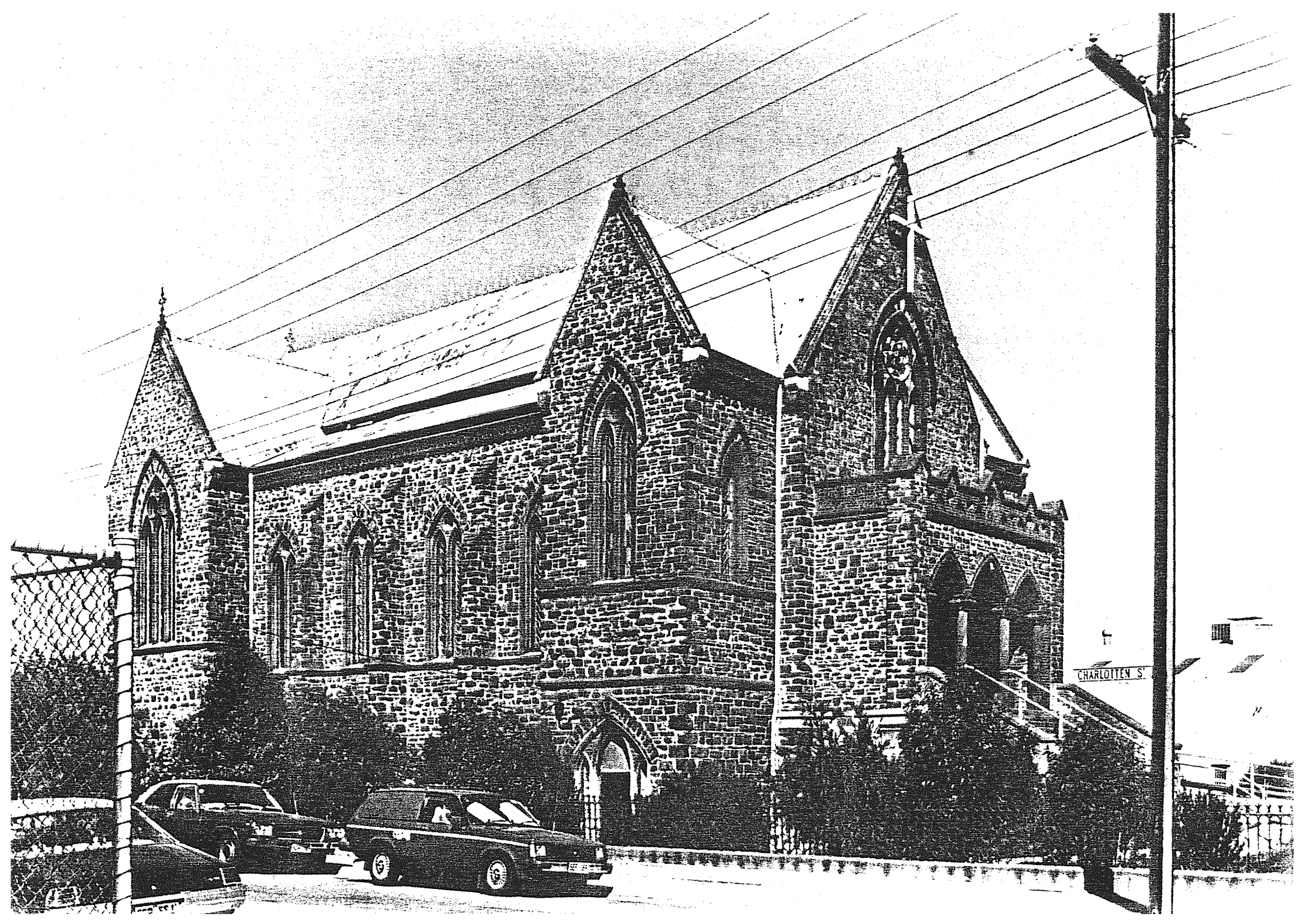
The building is classified by the National Trust of South Australia, and is under consideration by the Department of Environment and Planning for inclusion on the Register of South Australian Heritage. The building is clearly an important heritage item, being of fine architectural quality and with significant associations with important individuals and social movements within the Church, Port Adelaide and South Australia.

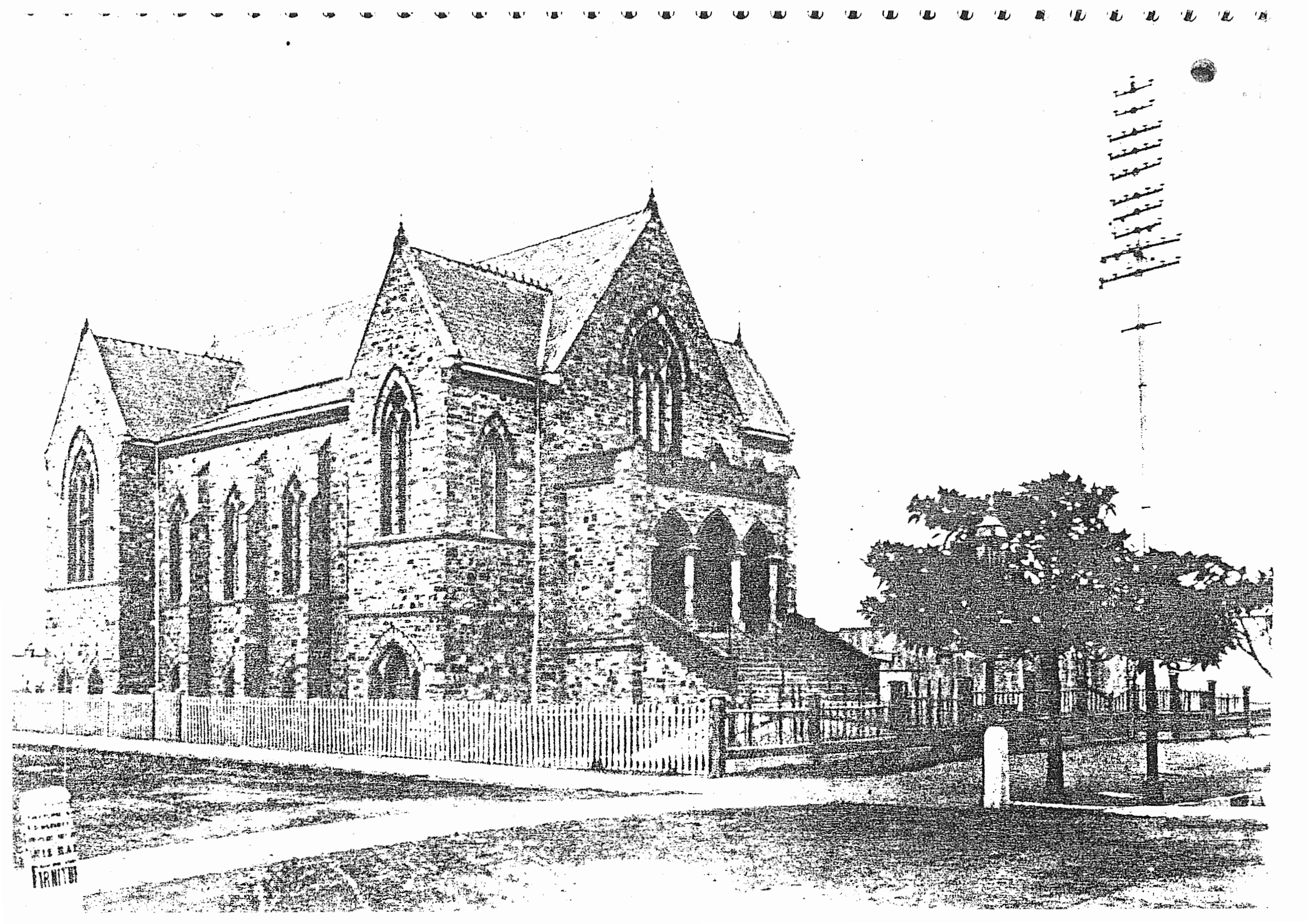
The significance of the Church lies in its fine Architectural qualities, its imposing scale and position as a landmark of the region and of its representation of the social development of Port Adelaide. The association with Hodge and Kirby and other notable South Australians is also important.

There can be no doubt about the importance of this Building and that every effort must be made to carry out the urgent conservation work needed to ensure the survival of this significant Heritage item and valuable Community asset.

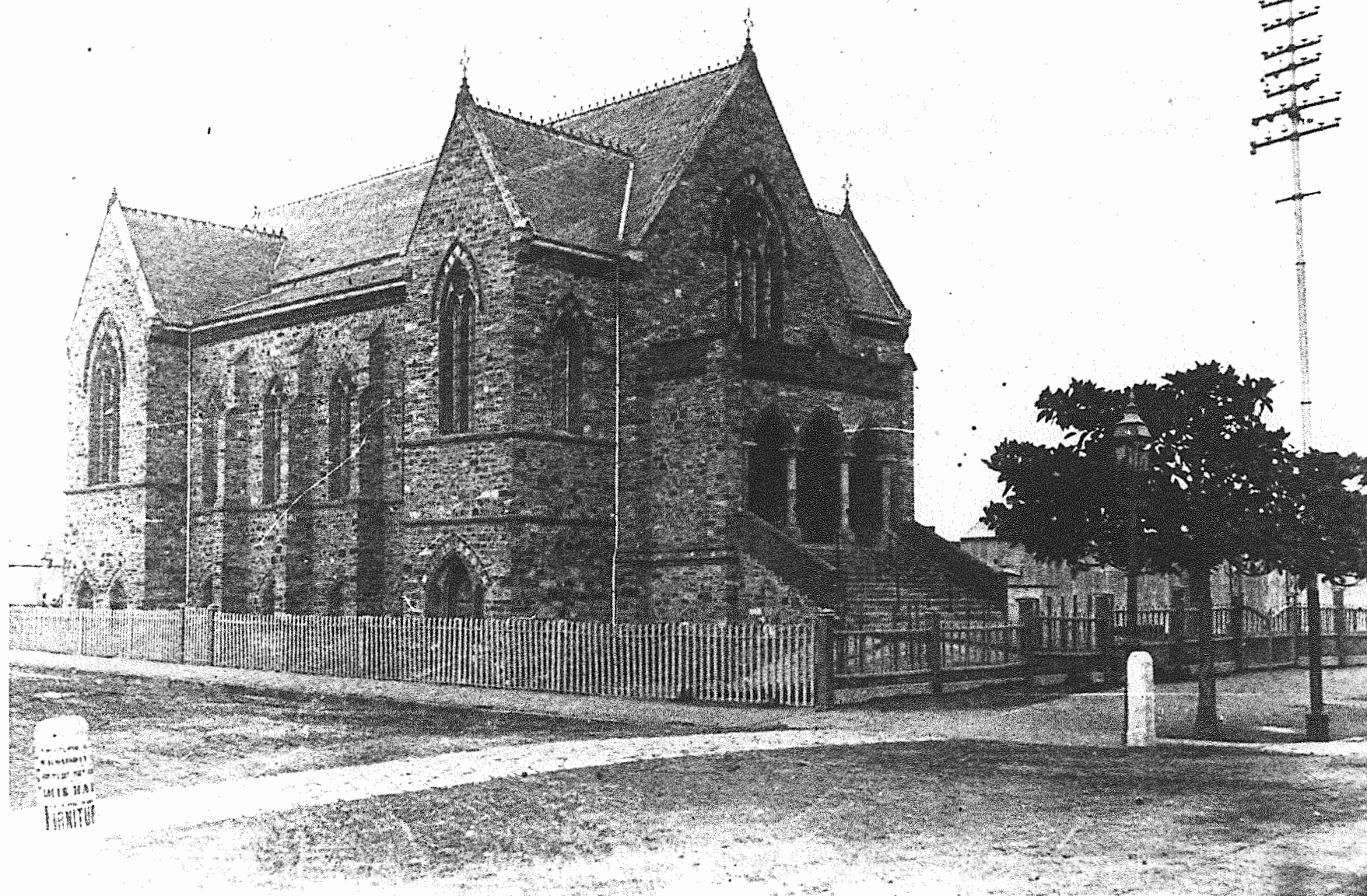


Part of Port Adelaide's historic heritage of five old buildings is the Uniting Church on Commercial Road. It was built in 1867, and has been given National Trust classification.





THE
FURNITURE
STORE
OF
THE
CITY



Port Adel - Cong. Church.

1890s ?

SCANNED

Advertiser 24/1/98
Meeting 11/6/98
Prov 031
Reg 024

HERITAGE ACT 1993

PROVISIONAL ENTRY OF PLACES IN THE STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Heritage Act 1993*, the State Heritage Authority hereby gives notice that the places described in The Schedule have been provisionally entered in the State Heritage Register.

Any person has the right to make submissions on whether these entries should be confirmed. The Authority will consider all written submissions received within three months of this public notice.

Submissions may be addressed to the Secretary, State Heritage Authority, GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001.

THE SCHEDULE

The Adelaide Hills Council
• Salem Baptist Church
Victoria Street, Gumeracha 5233

The Corporation of the City of Mitcham
• Retreat House
29 Gloucester Avenue, Belair 5052

The Barossa Council
• Zion Lutheran Church
(former Union Church)
Murray Street, Angaston 5353

CONFIRMATION OF ENTRIES IN THE STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

Pursuant to the provisions of the *Heritage Act 1993*, the State Heritage Authority hereby gives notice that the places described in The Schedule have been confirmed as entries in the State Heritage Register.

Places listed in The Schedule were previously placed in the Register as provisional entries in accordance with Section 18 of the *Heritage Act 1993*. Under the provisions of the *Development Act 1993* any development of these places requires the written consent of the relevant Planning Authority.

THE SCHEDULE

The Corporation of the City of Adelaide

- Torrens Training Depot and Parade Ground
King William Road, Adelaide 5000
- Memorial to Captain Sir Ross Smith
Creswell Garden, King William Road,
North Adelaide 5006
- Memorial to G F and J H Angus
Angas Garden, King William Road
North Adelaide 5006
- Memorial to His Majesty King Edward VII
North Terrace, Adelaide 5000
- Statue of Hercules
Pennington Garden West
North Adelaide 5006
- Statue of Venus
Prince Henry Gardens
North Terrace, Adelaide 5000

The Alexandrina Council
• Former Milang Butter Factory
Daranda Terrace, Milang 5256

The Corporation of the City of Burnside
• Clayton Wesley Uniting Church Complex
(including 1882 Church, 1856 Chapel,
1875 Hope Hall and 1910 Clayton Institute)
278 Portrush Road, Beulah Park 5067

The City of Charles Sturt
• St Margaret's Anglican Church and Lychgate
789-791 Port Road, Woodville 5011- St Agnes' Anglican Church
270 Military Road, Grange 5022

The Clare and Gilbert Valleys Council
• Mounting Steps
Main North Road, Auburn 5451

The Flinders Ranges Council
• 1885 Hawker Dam, Hawker 5434

Dean Davies
Presiding Member
State Heritage Authority

Department for Environment,
Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs
DEEHA02649

The Regional Council of Goyder

- Former Apoinga Hotel, 'Willvere'
Apoinga 5413

The Northern Areas Council
• Conservator's Hut, former Forest Office
and 1876 Nursery Site - Bundaleer
Forest Reserve, Bundaleer 5491

The City of Playford
• Buildings Nos 29 and 33 Smithfield
Magazine Area
Andrews Road, corner Curtis Road,
MacDonald Park 5121

The City of Port Adelaide Enfield
• Administration Building, Hampstead Centre
207-255 Hampstead Road, Northfield 5085- St Paul's Anglican Church
St Vincent Street, Port Adelaide 5015
- Uniting Church (former Congregational
Church) 169 Commercial Road,
Port Adelaide 5015

Unincorporated

- Former Mount Hamilton Station Site -
designated place of archaeological
significance, Stuarts Creek 5733
- Ooldea Soak and former United
Aborigines Mission Site - designated
place of archaeological significance,
Ooldea 5710
- William Creek Hotel
Oodnadatta Track, William Creek 5710

The District Council of Yankalilla
• Seawall, Causeway, Bridge and Jetty
Second Valley 5204



Government
of South Australia