HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historically, this item is significant for its association with the early growth of the Foresters' Lodge, and the development of urban social institutions in the lower north.

Architecturally, the building is typical of simple country 'Hall' buildings but it does illustrate a high standard of stone detailing on its exterior. The interior is notable for its applied decoration.

Environmentally, this item contributes to the character of early Watervale, its location on the Main North Road expressing the town's function as a stopping-place and agricultural service centre.

The integrity of the item is fair. Alterations have been made to adapt the building to a continuing role, but fortunately these are either superficial or visually non-disruptive.

NOMINATION SOURCE/THREAT/OWNER

This report has been prepared in response to a request from the Watervale Community Hall Association for advice from the Branch on conservation work. The building was identified by the Region 8 Study as of "local heritage significance", but warranting further review. The building is owned by the District Council of Saddleworth and Auburn, and used for community meetings and social events.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION BRANCH RECOMMENDATION: .................................................

[Signature]
Manager

It is recommended that this item not be included on the Register of State Heritage Items.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: .................................................

[Signature]
Chairman
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The hall was built in 1872 for the Ancient Order of Foresters; their foundation members date from 1864, (including Peter Shearer, the famous inventor and manufacturer of farm implements).

This was possibly the first Foresters Hall in a country area of S.A. The tablet was laid in 1915 by Mrs. C.A. Sobels.

Besides its use as a Lodge, the hall has since served also as the Community Hall.

REFERENCES

S.A. Archives, Research Note 324;
South Australian Gazetteer..., p.269;
"Land cruises to Watervale",

Verbal Geraldine Pearce, Griff Merritt, 1982
Archival photographs Watervale Community Hall

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 268    Negative No. 9
Direction of view to SW

TYPE OF ITEM

LAND Natural feature [   ]
   Historical site [   ]
   Historical Gdn. [   ]
BUILDING
STRUCTURE
PHYSICAL CONDITION
Good

STATUS

Reg. of State Her. It[ ]
Reg. Interim L[ ]
Nominated [ ]
National Estate
Reg. Proposed L[ ]
National Trust
CL [ ] RL [ ] File[ ]
Other
S.A. Highways Dept. [ ]
Instit. of Engineers [ ]

RECOMMENDATION

(A) State [ ] (B) Local X

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATION:
Date: 1982