

HERITAGE SURVEY
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

HERITAGE SURVEY: PART 2

Item Ref. No.

ITEM NAME: St Theodore's Rectory
Former or other

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE : A long, low building in the Californian bungalow style, the rectory probably dates from the 1920's. It completes a series of buildings built for the Anglican Church along this block fronting Prescott Tce. The residence is well maintained and an integral part of the St Theodore's complex.

LOCATION
Address 42 Prescott Tce.
Town Toorak Gardens
Postcode 5065
Section 275
Hundred ADELAIDE
County
L.G.A. BURNSIDE
S.H.P. Region 2
A.M.G. Ref.

SUBJECT

2.5

USE

PERIOD
State

Study Area
1881-1920

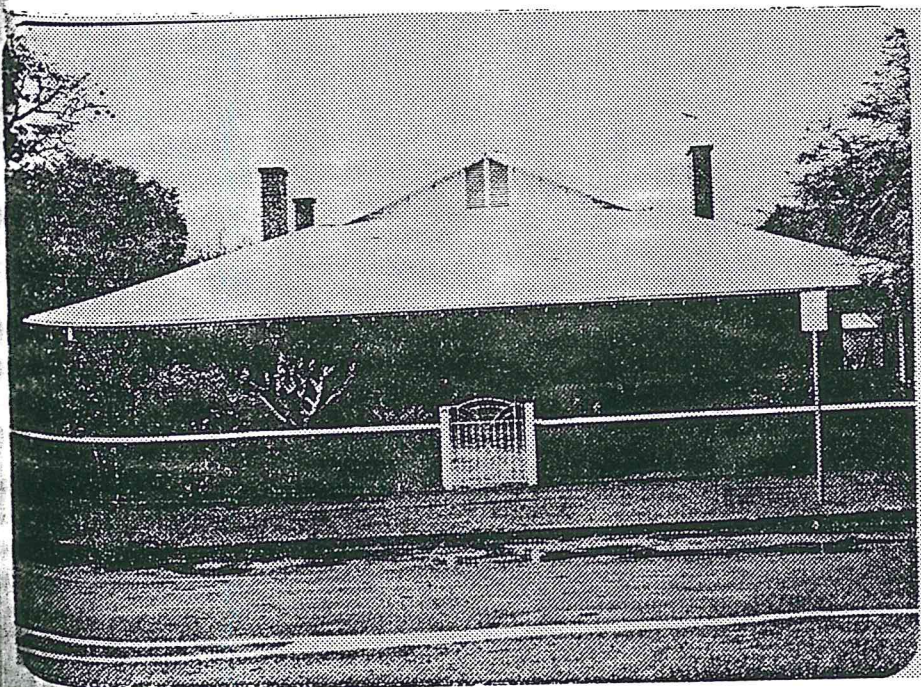
REFERENCES

Verbal
Archival photographs

TYPE OF ITEM
LAND Natural feature ☐
Historical site ☐
Historical Gdn. ☐
BUILDING ☒
STRUCTURE ☐
PHYSICAL CONDITION

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 13 Negative No. 5



STATUS
Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. ☐ Interim L ☐
Nominated
National Estate
Reg. ☐ Proposed L ☐
National Trust
CL ☐ RL ☐ File ☐
Other ☐
☐

LAND TITLE

1372/34

RECOMMENDATION

(A) State ☒ (B) Local ☐

PREPARED BY
ALEXANDRA MARSDEN AND
JOHN DALLWITZ

Date: 1987

You searched for the SUBJECT: toorak gardens

14002
Catalogue
Record 3 of 5

AUTHOR Peake, Andrew Guy, 1949-
TITLE St. Theodore's Anglican Church, Toorak Gardens, South Australia :
an architectural history / by Andrew Guy Peake.
PUBLISHED [Armidale, N.S.W.] : University of New England, 1992.
DESCRIPTION 38 leaves in various foliations : ill., facsim., maps, plans ;
30 cm.
NOTE Cover title.
"Interpreting the historical landscape, Unit SS 422-14,
University of New England" -- Cover.
Includes bibliographical references (p. [29])
SUBJECT St. Theodore's Church (Toorak Gardens, S. Aust.) -- Buildings.

LOCATION	CALL NO.	STATUS
1 > Mortlock Use Books	283.94231 P357	CHECK SHELVES
2 > Mortlock Pamphlets	283.94231 P357 b	REQUEST ITEM

Key NUMBER to see more information, OR

M > MORE BIBLIOGRAPHIC Record

R > RETURN to Browsing

F > FORWARD browse

Choose one (1-2,M,R,F,B,N,A,Z,S,+)

B > BACKWARD browse

N > NEW Search

+ > ADDITIONAL options

In 1913 a block of land facing Prescott Terrace, Toorak Gardens, was purchased. The trustees for the purchase were Frank Herbert King, priest of Rose Park, Samuel Auguste Icery Le Brun, gentleman of Dulwich, Jabez Edwin Thomas, accountant of Adelaide, and Henry Powys Edwardes, clerk of Norwood. [Appendix 1]

2. St. Theodore's Church

With the rapid growth in the congregation the Church in Gurney Road was soon outgrown.

Discussion were held between the Rev. F. H. King and William Henry Bagot, architect of the firm of Woods, Bagot and Jory, regarding plans for a church. Although the original plans for the church have not been found, the ledger books for the architectural firm are extant. (Mortlock Lib. of SA, BRG 18/3)

In October 1910 preparatory sketches and estimates were prepared. In 1912 laborers sank trial holes for the foundations. Revised estimates were prepared on 2 July, 1912, and further revised estimates were prepared on 26 September, omitting the chancel. It appears that it had been decided that there were insufficient funds available to consider including the chancel, vestries and towers. In 1913 the Building Fund stood at 1800 pounds. In December final drawing specifications were prepared.

On 4 February, 1913, tenders for the construction of St. Theodore's appeared in The Register and The Advertiser. The records indicate that the lowest tender was 2739 pounds, from William Essery.

With the payment by the church of 63 pounds 10 shillings and three pence, the working drawings and specification, were handed over to Henry Powys Edwardes, minister's warden and one of the church trustees.

On 7 February, 1914, the Bishop of Adelaide, the Right Reverend Dr. Arthur Nutter Thomas, laid the foundation stone. The church was dedicated and licenced for divine worship by the Bishop on 14 October, 1914.

The architect's ledger indicates that the builder's account was approved for payment for 2708 pounds 14 shillings and six pence with an additional amount of 37 pounds 2 shillings and six pence for electric light. The architect's commission was 5% or 137 pounds five shillings. Bagot made two donations to the building fund totalling five guineas. The account was settled on 9 June 1915. The Certificate of Title indicates that a mortgage was raised to fund the difference between the amount in the Building Fund and the building costs. The mortgage was not finally discharged until 19 July, 1923.

Building Fabric

The November, 1914, edition of the Adelaide Church Guardian reported on the opening of the new St. Theodore's Church. The overall design of the church was Italian Romanesque, that is the windows and doorways are rounded rather than pointed, which is indicative of the other major strand of church architecture of gothic. The article comments that the use of Romanesque design was a new departure in South Australia. Subsequently a number of other Anglican churches were built to the Romanesque style, i.e. All Souls, St. Peter's; St. Columba's, Hawthorn. [Photo 4,5]

It was intended that at some future date to add at the eastern end a chancel, vestries and two towers, the base of which was included in the new building.

The church was constructed of squared, random coursed freestone with red brick facings. Freestone is a form of sandstone that splits horizontally thereby cutting 'freely' from the rock bed. Quarries for this stone existed within reasonable distance at Mount Lofty, Aldgate and Tea Tree Gully. Freestone was used for house fronts, and many other houses in the district are built with this stone. By this time freestone was enjoying increasing popularity to blue-stone, perhaps due to its relative ease of use. The Gartrell Uniting (formerly Methodist) Church, which is located about 100 metres away, and built in the same year, is constructed of the same building material, although in the gothic style. The footings however were of blue-stone, a less porous material and less susceptible to salt-damp, which is very prevalent in the Adelaide plains soil. This is a popular term for slate when used as a walling stone. Quarries exist for blue-stone at Glen Osmond. The brickwork is in english bond. The Church was roofed with galvanised iron with ventilation vents. [Photo 6,7]

Internally there are twelve (symbolic of the twelve apostles) octagonal pillars of brick with rounded arches. Altogether there are 70 arches. The dimensions of the nave is 87 feet by 42 feet, with seating accommodation for 250 people. [Photo 8,9]

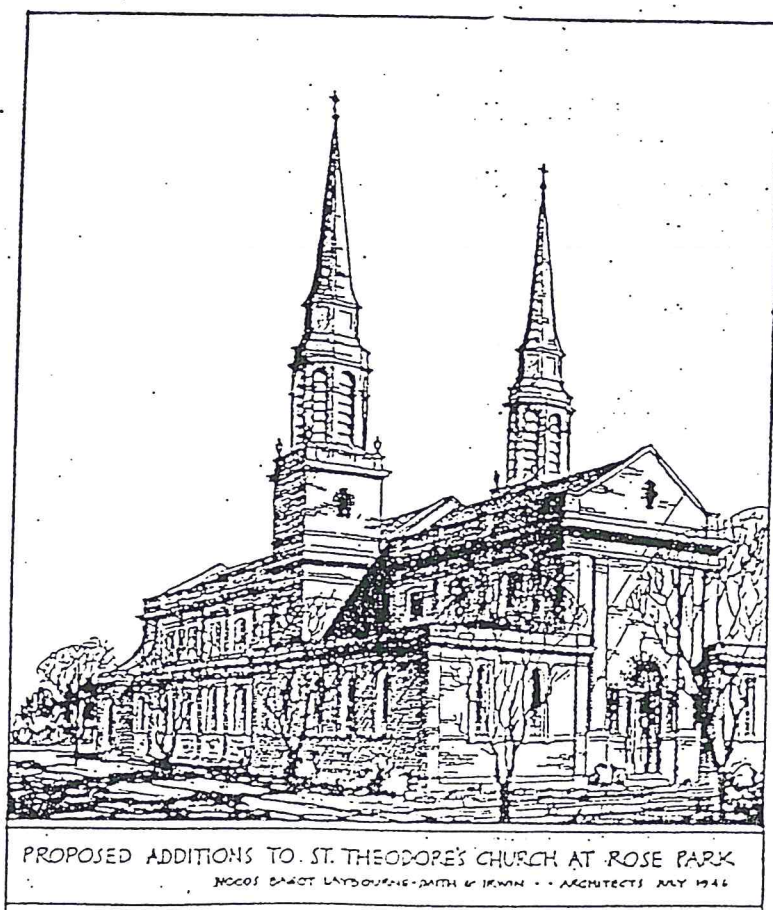
Lighting is obtained by a double row of windows, windows with rounded heads in the lower level and rectangular windows above the arches. Electricity was installed from the start.

The church is built on an east-west axis, with the altar at the eastern end and an apse at the western end, which is used as a baptistery.

It can be seen that the original planners were ambitious in their plans for a new church to replace the original blue-stone structure, built in 1899. However when it came to putting the ideas into reality, substantial modifications had to be made to the original design. Funds were insufficient to include the chancel, vestries and towers. Consequently a temporary wall at the eastern end of the nave, in the chancel arch, was constructed of



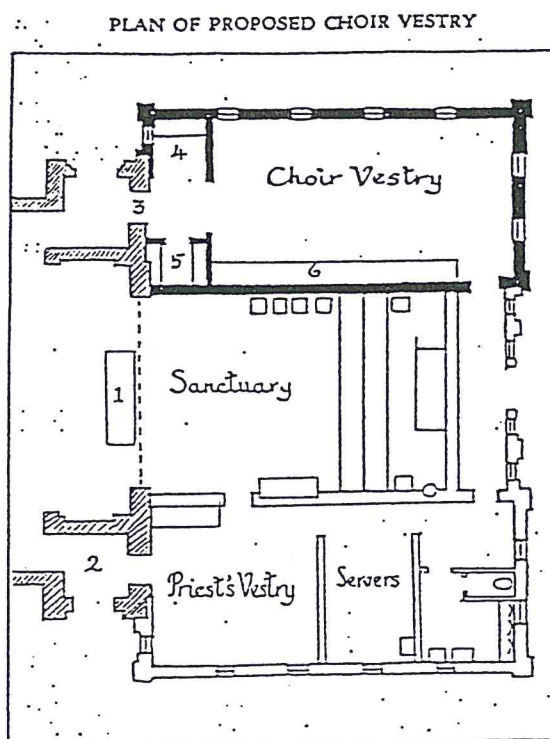
[Photo 10] The Choir Vestry at the north-west end of the church.
Note the similar windows and brickwork.



timber, with internal lining and external galvanised iron. The vestry was also a temporary wood and iron lean-to.

The next major addition to the church was during the ministry of the Ven. T. T. Reed (subsequently Bishop and later Archbishop of Adelaide). He had returned from service as a chaplain with the Australian Armed Forces and suggested that completing the chancel and vestries would be a suitable War Memorial. A War Memorial also had tax deduction benefits when attracting funds. At a public meeting on 9 December, 1945, a Fund was established. However although some funds were raised they were insufficient and enthusiasm diminished. The plan was resurrected in 1952 with the less ambitious task of raising funds for a choir vestry. It was estimated that this addition would cost 3500 pounds. It was commented that St. Theodore's had one of the largest choirs in the Diocese and the temporary wood and iron building then in use was disintegrating.

Fund raising was successful and the Choir Vestry was built at the eastern end of the Church. It is constructed of red brick which integrates well with the brickwork of the church. Windows are the same style as in the church. One end of the 38 feet by 16 feet Vestry has been partitioned off to provide a Priest's Vestry.



The shaded portion is the present East End of the Church.

The black portion is the proposed Choir Vestry.

The portion in white represents the future additions it is hoped to make to complete the Church.

1. The present Altar.
2. The present Priest's Vestry.
3. Doorway to present temporary Choir Vestry.
4. Small room with sink for use of Sanctuary Guild.
5. Small room for brooms, etc., used by cleaner and Guild.
6. Cupboards for Choir Robes and Books.

The foundation stone was laid by the Governor of South Australia, Sir Robert George, on 7 March, 1954. The foundation stone states:

A.M.D.G.
This vestry was built
as a memorial
to those who died
and to those who served
in the War 1939-1945.

On 23 December, 1960, St. Theodore's Church suffered a disastrous fire. Although the damage was severe the main structure was saved, largely due to the prompt action of the Fire Brigade. Nearly 15,000 pounds worth of damage was caused, which was fortunately covered by insurance. [Photo 11,12]

The fire and need to effect repairs became the impetus to consider extending the church by adding the chancel. In April, 1961, a proposal to build a new sanctuary was accepted and the architect authorized to draw up plans and specification. The bank had offered to lend 7500 pounds and 4000 pounds had been raised with an additional thousand pounds lent by parishioners. Tenders were called in July which was won by H. J. Lander. It was reported in the Adelaide Church Guardian that work was well underway by November, with expected completion by Christmas. The new addition was finally dedicated by the Bishop of Adelaide, the Rt. Rev. Thomas Thornton Reed, who had been previously rector of the church on 4 March, 1962.

The design of the chancel, or sanctuary, continued the architectural style. The ceiling was barrel vaulted, unlike the nave which had a more traditional roof structure, with exposed beams and timber lining. A doorway was made to connect the vestry with the chancel and two blind arches built into the south wall with temporary infill of timber and iron, which could be removed, when a separate vestry was built. The principal concession to modern architecture was the brickwork pattern of the eastern wall. [Photo 13,14]

Internal Fixtures

In the afternoon following the consecration of the church a baptismal service was held in the apse, or baptistery, where the font is located. Although it is not indicated it is probable that the font originally came from the earlier church. This Italian marble font was presented to the church by the children of the Sunday school in 1902-3. After the service a stained glass window with the figure of the Good Shepherd was unveiled by A. D. Threadgill, secretary of the Sunday school. It was subscribed for by the children of the Catechism in memory of a comrade, Eileen Williams, who had died earlier that year, at the age of 15 years. The baptistery contains blackwood panelling to the memory of Frank Herbert King, Priest of the Parish, 1903-1944, and to Alfred Fuller, a parishioner. [Photo 15]

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Note: No history has been published for St. Theodore's Church, however the War Memorial Number of St. Theodore's Church Notes, No. 461, February, 1953, provides a historical overview.

St. Theodore's Church, on the corner of Prescott Terrace and Swaine Avenue, Toorak Gardens, was opened, dedicated and licensed in 1914, but its origin was much earlier.

Services were first held in the Rose Park school building in 1897 and, later, in the church that was erected in Gurney Road opposite the school. The church building is now being used as a technical school.

The church had a distinguished beginning. Services were started by the Rev. L. P. Crawford (afterwards Bishop of Stafford) and the Rev. M. L. C. Headlam (afterwards Prebendary of Chichester Cathedral), assisted by two young catechists, Messrs. S. T. C. Best and F. H. King, both of whom were ordained and became Canons of St. Peter's Cathedral, Adelaide.

The Rev. Matthew Williams, Rector of St. Saviour's Church, Glen Osmond, took the district under his pastoral charge, and arranged for the building of the original church in Gurney Road, which was opened and licensed in 1899.

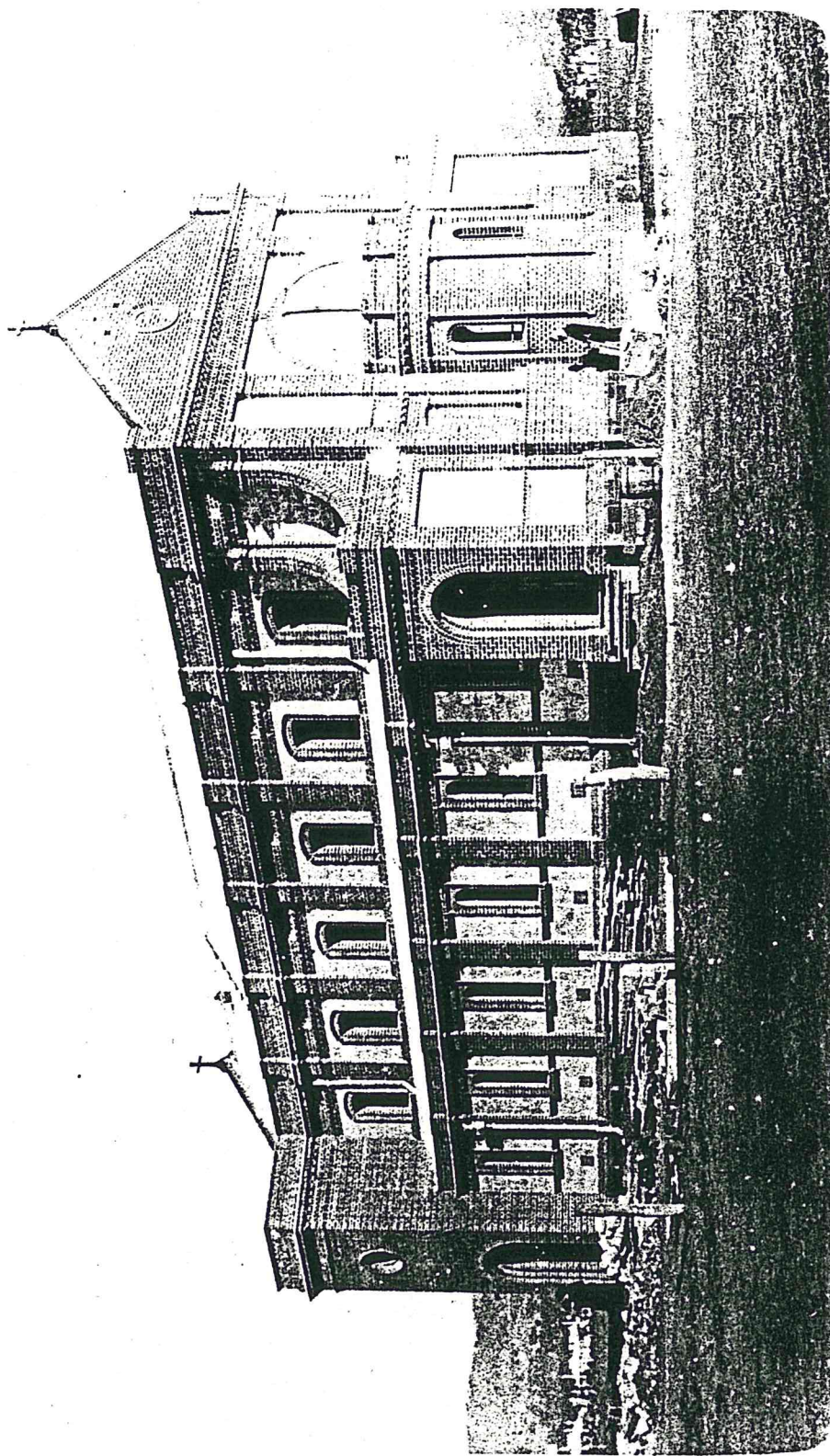
The complete plan for the beautiful building which now serves the parish has not yet been carried out. The building of the rectory and a commodious parish hall followed soon after the erection of the church, and memorial vestries were built in 1954.

The church's tradition for rectors of distinction was carried into more recent times when the Rev. T. Thornton Reed, who was inducted as Rector in 1944, became Dean of Adelaide 10 years later.

St. Saviour's Church, near the extreme southern end of Portrush Road, Glen Osmond, grew from its first services, in 1854, in the Institute Hall on Glen Osmond Road.

Sir Hurtle Fisher gave three acres of land and quantities of stone and other materials to build a church and rectory, and later he gave an endowment of £150.

The church was built in 1858 and the Rev. R. W. Needham was the first Rector. An outstanding service to the parish was rendered by the Rev. H. W. Mudie, whose successful, popular ministry extended over 32 years.



ST. THEODORE'S CHURCH, SEASIDE, CALIF.

St. Theodore

Lord Bishop of Adelaide Paid the Foundation Stone 7th Feb 1914. [Anglican]
 He was the Right Rev. Arthur Hutton.