

Prospect Heritage Survey—Item Identification Sheet

ITEM NAME: *Mitchell House complex—house, coachhouse and cottage*

Description:

A rambling single-storey house, based on a rectangular floor plan, but with many variations to the pattern. The house is constructed of coursed limestone walling with moulded quoins and surrounds to openings. The main entrance way is surrounded by blocked moulding. A cast iron and c.g.i. verandah is attached to the house. An elaborate, rounded section rises over the main entrance way and a skylight covers a large bay window. The attendant buildings are constructed of stone and brick.

Historical Summary:

Section 2065 was first granted to John Thomgate of Gosport, England in November 1839 and after the death of the last member of the Thomgate family, in 1868, it became the property of Emanuel Churcher.

Few records remain of the origins of Mitchell House. From the inception of Council records the land was owned by John Bagot. It remained as vacant land in the hands of the Bagot family until the early 1900s. By 1910 Sir William Mitchell had purchased blocks 6, 7, 12, 13, had built the house, coachhouse and the cottage. Mitchell had come to Adelaide in 1890 as Professor of Philosophy/Psychology at the University. He married Eristoun Barr Smith, and later became the University's Chancellor. His son, Sir Mark Mitchell, also lived at the house. He was, in 1938, appointed to the Chair of Biochemistry at Adelaide. He was first Chancellor of Flinders University.

Heritage Significance:

The building is unique in form and character, reflecting the lives and needs of the Mitchell family. It is an important landmark on the Parklands frontage. Its link with Sir William and Sir Mark Mitchell, two of the most important influences on twentieth century education in South Australia, make it of special note. There can be little question that the house, coachhouse and cottage are a reflection of the lifestyle and achievements of one of Adelaide's most creative and influential families. The complex is of State significance.

References: PROSA, Dept Lands, notes on subdivisions, GRG35/584/1324/17
City of Prospect rate assessment books
Max Lamshed, Prospect 1872–1972: A Portrait of a City, pp. 63–4
M.I. Legoe, A Family Affair, 1982, p. 47

Verbal:

Archival Photographs:

PHOTOGRAPH—Film no. 1529

Negative no. 35

Item Ref. No. 35

Office Item No.

Office Docket No.

Address: 18 Fitzroy Tce

Town: Fitzroy

Postcode: 5082

Section: 2065, pts 6/13. 7/12

Hundred: Yatala

County: Adelaide

L.G.A.: Prospect

S.H.P. Region: 2

A.M.G. Ref.

Subject: 2.2

Use:

Period—State: 1884–1914

Period—Local: 1900–

LAND Natural Feature:

LAND Historical site:

LAND Historical Gdn.

BUILDING: X

STRUCTURE:

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Reg. of State Her. Items:

National Estate:

National Trust:

Other:

LAND TITLE: CT 156250

RECOMMENDATION— State:

Local:

Prospect Heritage Survey—Item Site Plan

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