

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

ST CYPRIAN'S CHURCH HALL (FORMER ST CYPRIAN'S DAY SCHOOL) REAR 70 MELBOURNE STREET NORTH ADELAIDE

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLACE

The former St Cyprian's Day School building is located immediately behind St Cyprian's Church, separated from the church building by only a few metres. The school building is constructed of stone, with brick quoins and dressings and gabled corrugated iron roof. The interior of the building, comprising one large space with lean-to room at rear, is in relatively unaltered condition, with timber floor, rough painted walls and matchboard ceiling.

The leanto addition at the rear of the hall (which is in poor condition) and the brick 'annexe' constructed on the northeastern corner of the school building are not included in this listing.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

The former St Cyprian's church school, completed in 1894, is a well preserved example of an Anglican church day school. The school represents the importance placed by the Anglican Church on the provision of education for the disadvantaged and working classes, particularly in the North Adelaide area which lay under the control of Christ Church, considered to be church of the 'establishment' in Adelaide. Church day schools, along with Sunday Schools, were also the main source of religious education for those who desired it, until the introduction of religious education in the state school system in the 1940s

RELEVANT CRITERIA (Under Section 16 of the *Heritage Act 1993*)

a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

Prior to, and for many years after, the passing of the Education Act in 1875 which made education compulsory in South Australia, small day schools associated with churches of various denominations have played an important role in the religious and educational history of the state.

The church day schools provided for an aspect of education not catered for in state schools until the 1940s – that of religious doctrine. The Anglican Church established a Board of Education in 1887 to oversee and control the curriculum for its schools, one of which was that at St Cyprian's in North Adelaide.

St Cyprian's Mission Church was completed in 1883, funded by Christ Church parishioners in North Adelaide. The mission provided much needed educational facilities for the children of Irish migrants who had settled in Lower North Adelaide in the 1870s. Christ Church was considered the church of the 'establishment' at the time and the school at the Church allowed for a certain level of education for the children of people who, in the main, were employed by that 'establishment'. In 1894 a new school building was erected behind the original mission. Like many similar Anglican church schools, St Cyprian's Day School operated under the auspices of the Diocesan Board of Education, funded by the local parish and attended by Anglicans and other denominations alike. With improvements in the state education system, including the introduction of free schooling in 1891, the popularity of the smaller church day schools began to decline, and by the 1930s many of them had closed.

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

St Cyprian's Church

A block of land on Town Acre 1007 in Melbourne Street, North Adelaide, was purchased by the Archdeacon of Adelaide and Rector of Christ Church, Charles Marryat, with two others in September 1872 (CT 169/173). The purchase of the block of land was later to satisfy Marryat's desire to provide a school and church for the Irish migrants who were beginning to settle in large numbers in lower North Adelaide at the time. Marryat was keen to see a mission church built in the area, supported financially by the congregation of Christ Church in Palmer Place, and he also worked to provide accommodation for these relatively poor families in the form of workers' homes in Stanley Street and Kingston Terrace (SHR 10897-10910) in the early 1880s (Holden, p. 2; Marsden et al, p. 360-361).

The influx of migrants to South Australia from England and Ireland was prompted by an economic boom which in turn led to a chronic labour shortage in the state. The migrants were given free passage, and a large number of the Irish migrants in particular, settled in rented row cottages in Lower North Adelaide, doubling the population in the area in the decade 1870-1880 (Nagel, pp. 48-49). Many of these people, living in what became known as 'Irish Town', were employed as domestic servants and other workers by the wealthier upper classes who also resided in North Adelaide (Holden, p. 1; Nagel, p. 49; Marsden et al, p. 360).

The foundation stone for a Church of England Mission Church in Melbourne Street was laid by Lady Jervis in 1882. The completed building, designed by Daniel Garlick, was dedicated on 11 February 1883 and the cost of its construction had been financed by the congregation of Christ Church (Marsden et al, p. 360; Holden, p. 2). This would not have been difficult as, according to Marsden

Christ Church was one of the most prosperous Anglican churches in South Australia. In North Adelaide, where almost half of the population was Anglican, Christ Church was considered the parish church of the 'establishment' until well into the 20th

century and church members could well afford to erect a 'mission church' during the boom era of the 1870s to early 1880s.

Marsden et al, p. 360

The opening of the church coincided with the arrival in South Australia of Bishop George Kennion in early 1883. Kennion, believing that the Anglican Church should play a missionary role, founded the Bishop's Home Mission Society (BHMS), whose general aim was to provide churches and services to the poorer districts and new centres of population throughout the state. A number of churches were built in and around Adelaide with the assistance of the BHMS and were given the names of Anglo-Saxon or Celtic saints to reinforce the early English origins of the Church of England: St Aidan, St Cuthbert, St Oswald and St Ninian being some examples (Hilliard, pp. 53-55).

The Melbourne Street church was, however, not included in Kennion's Society, being served only by clergy and lay readers from Christ Church. It was not until the late 1890s that control of the Church was handed over to the mission society and was formally dedicated as St Cyprian's in 1898 (although it was being referred to as St Cyprian's from at least 1894) (Marsden et al, p. 361; *Register*, 12 February 1894, 3d).

In 1910-11 St Cyprian's Church was extended to incorporate a sanctuary (Marsden et al, p. 361) and in September 1986 the church was entered in the State Heritage Register (SHR 13570).

St Cyprian's Day School

By the mid 1890s attendances at the school associated with the Mission Church were sufficient to justify the construction of a separate school building on the Melbourne Street property. The foundation stone of the new building, located behind the original building, was laid on 10 February 1894 by Bishop Kennion's wife. The building was being constructed by Mr Monk to the designs of Mr C Hammond (*Register*, 12 February 1894, 3d). At the time the building was described as the 'Sunday School' (although it appears to have been used as a day school from the date of its completion) with Bishop Kennion stating that he

. . . feared that in the success of Sunday-school work in the colony a great many people had overlooked or forgotten the importance of the daily education of the young in religious matters. Indifference to religious instruction was brought about by the secular education system, and it extended to a great extent throughout the colony. Probably in time Mr Field [the incumbent of St Cyprian's] would be able to use the Sunday school-room for the daily training of children in religion.

Register, 12 February 1894, 3d

Some assistance in the funding for the project was provided by the BHMS (*Register*, 12 February 1894, 3d). The building was completed at a cost of £300. The school may have opened on or around 6 August 1894 – anniversary services for the school were held on 6 August 1896 (*Yearbook of the Church of England*, 1895, p. 135;

Holden, p. 3). Another Anglican day school was built in that year, associated with St James' church at Mile End (SHR 14451). (This building has subsequently been significantly altered).

There are very few formal records kept regarding the history of the school and those that were consisted in the main of attendance records and payments of the weekly fees (Holden, p. 4). It is likely that the school was run privately on behalf of the parish. However the Diocesan Board of Education was responsible for the supervision of the curriculum at the school.

This Board of Education had been appointed in 1887 and was requested to 'take steps for the establishment of Church schools, and to act as a Committee for considering all questions relating to the religious education of the young.' (*Yearbook of the Church of England*, 1895, p. 96). The main work of the Board was to establish and assist Church day-schools, which were defined in 1895 as:

A school in which the religious teaching is under the control of the Incumbent of the parish, or someone appointed by him; in which the work is daily opened and closed with prayer; in which the Church Catechism is taught and Scripture lessons are given to every child attending . . . and in which the work, secular as well as religious, is submitted to an annual examination by the Diocesan Inspector.

Yearbook of the Church of England, 1895, p. 96

By 1907 the St Cyprian's Day School was described as working to 'the 5th class standard'. Fourteen compulsory subjects were taught: Scripture, Catechism, Arithmetic, Writing, Reading, Spelling, Drawing, Grammar, Composition, Geography, History, Recitation, Singing and Sewing (*Yearbook of the Church of England*, 1907; Holden, p. 7).

At the time that the day school in Melbourne Street was completed there were 26 day schools associated with Anglican churches around the state (*Yearbook of the Church of England*, 1895, p. 92).

During the first year of the day school's operation in its new premises, there were 45 children in attendance, taught by two paid teachers and one unpaid assistant. In the same year there were 97 children attending Sunday School (Holden, p. 5; *Yearbook of the Church of England*, 1894). A year later the attendance at the day school had almost doubled to 85, increasing to 90 in 1896. It seems that this trend did not continue:

From 1899 through to 1912 pupil numbers seem to have varied considerably, which must have created administrative and financial problems. These declined to 42 and 40 in 1903 and 1905, but returned to the previous level of 90 in 1911. During these years the staff consisted of two paid teachers, but without any unpaid assistants.

Holden, p. 5

A vacant block of land to the east of the church and school buildings was purchased by the priest in charge and two church wardens in January 1903. It was officially opened as a playground for the day school in October of that year (Holden, p. 6).

The pupils of the day school were involved to some degree in church activities or services such as the celebration of Saints' days, Empire Day, Flower Services and end of year services. The students also collected money for donation to the church building fund and visited nearby hospitals (Holden, pp. 6, 7).

The building fund project was later to finance additions to the day school. A red brick annexe was built on the eastern side of the school building in 1918. This may have served as an office for the teachers and store room (Holden, p. 11).

Pupil numbers at the school steadily increased during the early 1920s, reaching 103 in 1925. However, in 1926 student numbers halved to 53. There is no clear reason for this sudden drop, although improvements in the free state education system may have been responsible for the movement of some students to nearby public schools. The falling attendances 'hastened the decision' regarding the school's closure. In the Synod Annual Report of September 1927 it was indicated that the schools at Kilkenny, Yankalilla, Kensington and St Cyprian's had closed (*Yearbook of the Church of England*, 1927, p. 167). By 1928 the school building is referred to as the hall (Holden, p. 14). The building was apparently used intermittently during the 1940s as a school (Holden, p. 15).

Other Day Schools

Day schools associated with parish churches have been an important part of the religious and educational history of South Australia. Although many denominations conducted such schools, Anglican church day schools were probably the most common. Schools such as that at Christ Church at Yankalilla were operating from the late 1850s (SHR 14065).

These schools provided an elementary education for a small fee (ranging from fourpence to a shilling a week) and were supervised by two or three teachers (Hilliard, p. 67). In some areas these were the only schools available.

This situation changed with the passing of the Education Act in 1875 which provided for compulsory education, properly trained teachers and school buildings throughout the state. The new education system proved to be a great improvement in the quality of education provided to children. But the Anglican Church was not satisfied, as from its point of view the system 'failed to be true to education in that Christian religious instruction during school hours was forbidden.' (Jose, v. 2, p 22-23) and also complained of 'the absolute heathenism of the State system in a so-called Christian land.' (Hilliard, p. 67). The lack of religion in the state school curriculum prompted a campaign by the Anglicans (as well as other denominations) to have religious education in public schools which continued for 60 years until 1940 when religious instruction was allowed in state schools (Hilliard, p. 67).

The church day schools gave daily instruction in 'church doctrine' and Scripture. In one report made to Synod, a Father Swan stated that he considered the 'strong

points' of the church schools to be 'Holy Scripture, catechism, reading, spelling, recitation, and singing' but that more attention was required in the subjects of 'handwriting, arithmetic, drawing, history and composition.' (Holden, p. 4).

Although one of the aims of the Diocesan Board of Education was to establish and assist church schools, there was no real increase in the number of schools after 1887. In 1890 there were 18 schools associated with the Board, with 1,227 pupils; 27 schools (1,444 students) in 1900; 20 schools (1,138 students) in 1910 and 15 schools (1,362 students) in 1920 (Hilliard, p. 67). At least a third of these students came from non-Anglican backgrounds.

According to Hilliard the church schools 'provided a more intimate atmosphere than state schools, but their buildings were inferior and their teachers were poorly paid, often untrained.' (Hilliard, p. 67). The church ethos and the fulfilment of a religious commitment may have been the incentive which kept teachers at the church schools: their pay was certainly less than that of their colleagues in state schools (in 1902 a church schoolteachers salary was £50, somewhat less than the £70 paid to government teachers) (Holden, p. 4).

It is likely that the popularity of church day schools would have steadily declined after 1891 when education in state schools became free (Hilliard, p. 67). By 1935-36 the activities of Anglican church day schools were no longer reported to Synod.

REFERENCES

Information provided by Danvers Architects, September 2001

Holden, F. (comp.) [2001] 'St Cyprian's Day School: A Short History', St Cyprian's History Group, unpub.

Heritage SA File 13570, St Cyprians Church, 70 Melbourne Street, North Adelaide

Land Titles Office records, CT 169/173

Marsden, S., Stark, P. & Sumerling, P. (eds.) 1982, *Heritage of the City of Adelaide*, Corporation of the City of Adelaide

Borrow, K. T. 1983 (ed.) *St Cyprian's, North Adelaide, Centenary*, St Cyprian's Church, North Adelaide

Jose, G. H. 1954, *The Church of England in South Australia*, v. 2, 1856 -1881, Church Office, North Adelaide

Jose, G. H. 1955, *The Church of England in South Australia*, v. 3, 1882-1905, Church Office, North Adelaide

Hilliard, D. 1986, *Godliness and Good Order: A History of the Anglican Church in South Australia*, Wakefield Press, Adelaide

Nagel, P. 1974, *North Adelaide 1837-1901, A Social History of North Adelaide*, Austaprint, Adelaide

Yearbook of the Church of England in the Diocese of Adelaide, 1894 and 1895, Church of England, Diocese of Adelaide

Register, 12 February 1894, 3d

SRG 94/A7 Christ Church North Adelaide, and SRG 94/A8 St Cyprian's Anglican Church North Adelaide, Mortlock Library of South Australiana

SITE RECORD

**ST CYPRIAN'S CHURCH HALL (FORMER ST CYPRIAN'S DAY SCHOOL)
REAR 70 MELBOURNE STREET
NORTH ADELAIDE**

FORMER NAME:

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE: Gabled stone and brick building, excluding leanto at rear and brick annexe on northeastern corner

DATE OF COMPLETION: 1894
REGISTER STATUS: **Description:** Nominated
Date: 27 September 2001

CURRENT USE: **Description:** Church Hall
Dates: c. 1940s - present

PREVIOUS USE(S): **Description:** Primary School
Dates: 1894 – c. 1940s

ARCHITECT: **Name:** C Hammond
Dates: 1894

BUILDER: **Name:** Mr Monk
Dates: 1894

SUBJECT INDEXING: **Group:** Education
Category: Primary School

MISCELLANEOUS INDEX:
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: **Description:** Adelaide
LOCATION: **Unit No.:**
Street No.: 70 (rear)
Street Name: Melbourne Street
Town/Suburb: North Adelaide
Post Code: 5006
Region No.: 1
Region Name: Adelaide City

LAND DESCRIPTION: **Title Type:** CT
Volume: 5828
Folio: 925
Lot No.: 711
Section: Pt TA 1007
Hundred: Adelaide

AMG REFERENCE: **Zone:** 54
Easting: 281540 (WGS 84)
Northing: 6134660

Map Sheet 6628 - 3
No.:
Map Scale: 1 : 50,000

OWNER:

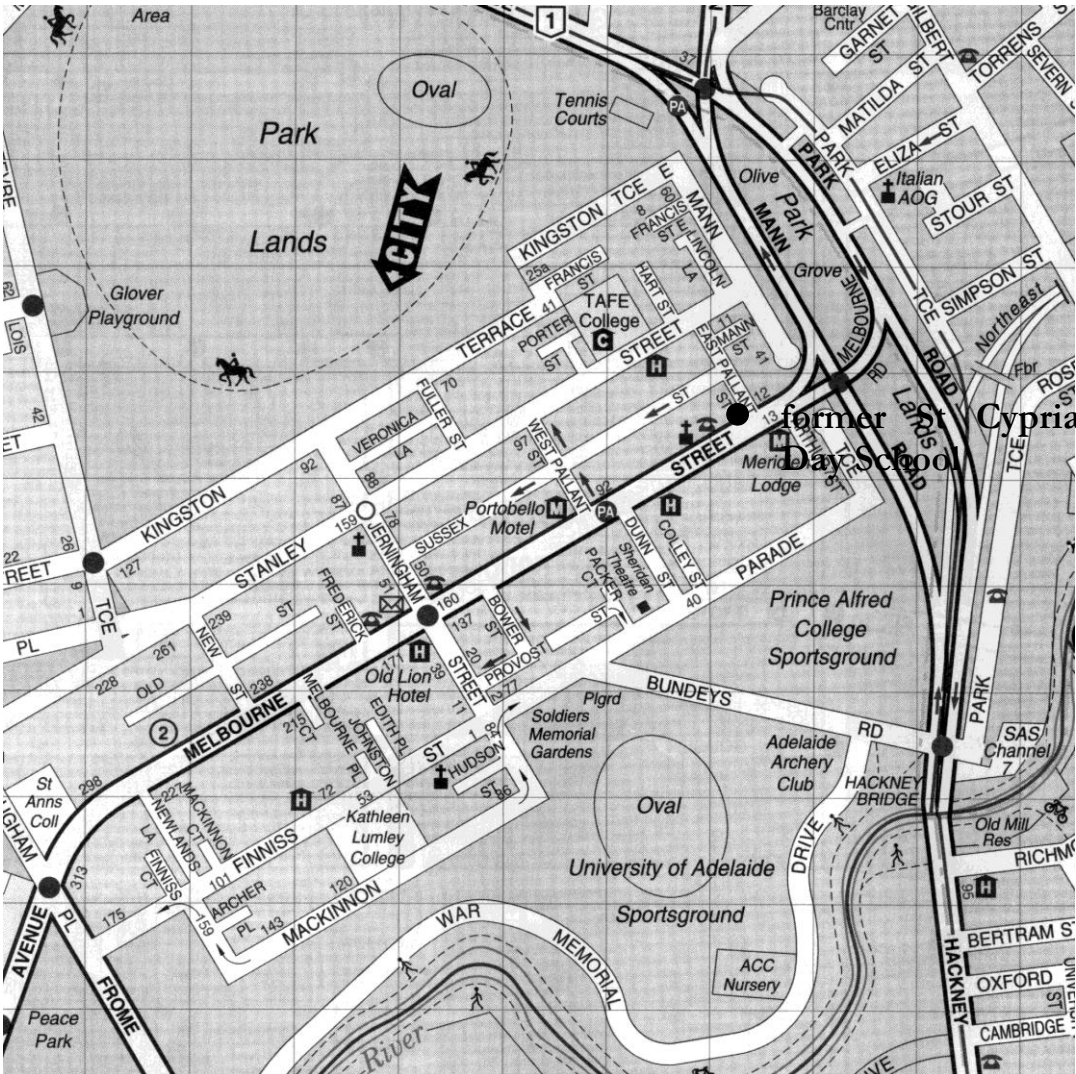
Name: Anglican Church in Australia
Diocese of Adelaide
Address: 26 King William Road
Town/Suburb: North Adelaide
Post Code: 5006

PHOTOGRAPH:

Film No.:
Neg. No.:

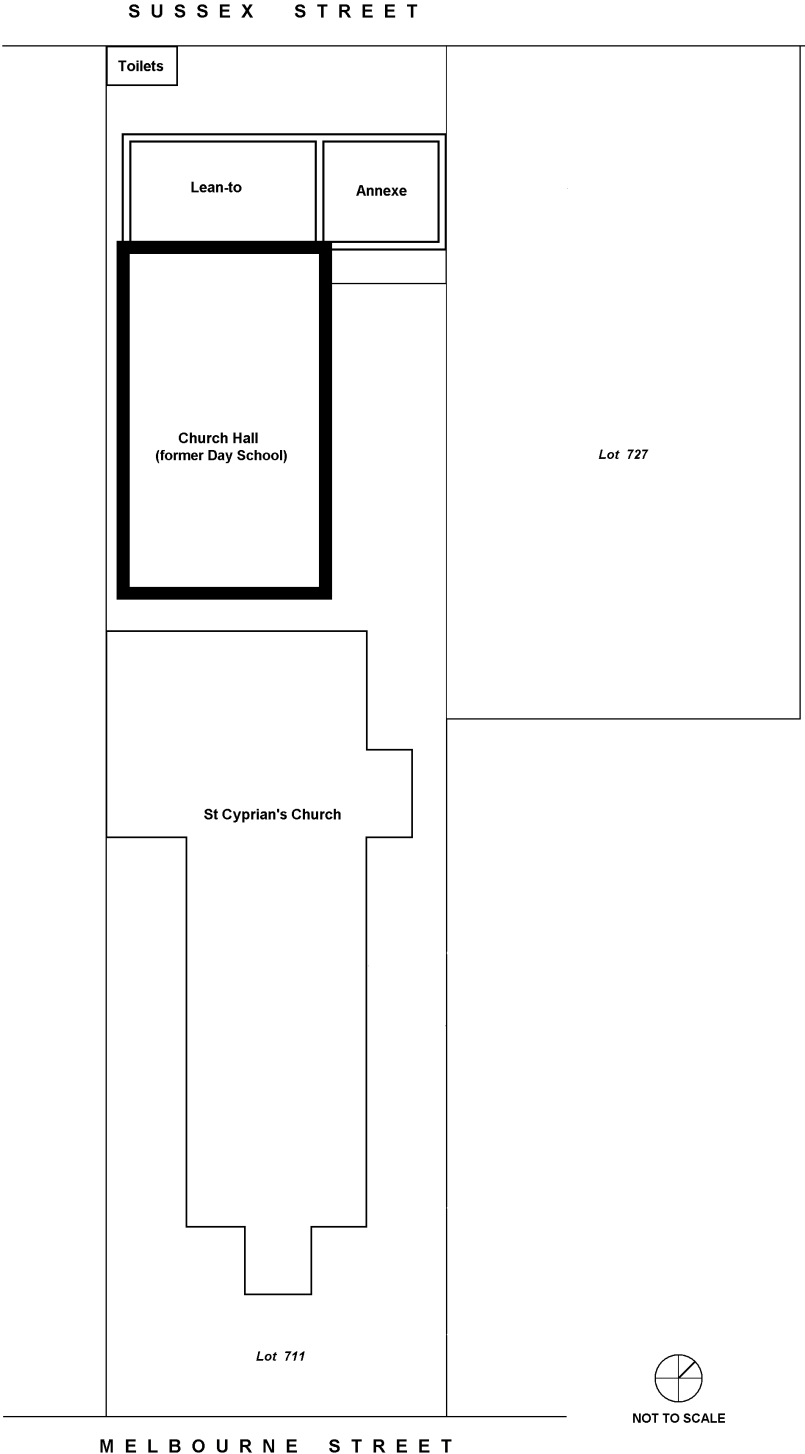
LOCATION PLAN

ST CYPRIAN'S DAY SCHOOL
REAR 70 MELBOURNE STREET
NORTH ADELAIDE



SITE PLAN

ST CYPRIAN'S CHURCH HALL (FORMER ST CYPRIAN'S DAY SCHOOL)
REAR 70 MELBOURNE STREET
NORTH ADELAIDE



PHOTOGRAPHS

ST CYPRIAN'S CHURCH HALL (FORMER ST CYPRIAN'S DAY SCHOOL)
REAR 70 MELBOURNE STREET
NORTH ADELAIDE



Eastern elevation



FILE NO.: 19119

PHOTOGRAPHS

**ST CYPRIAN'S CHURCH HALL (FORMER ST CYPRIAN'S DAY SCHOOL)
REAR 70 MELBOURNE STREET
NORTH ADELAIDE**



View from Sussex Street



Interior view