

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 16 Gordon Street Sorell 7172		UPI: 2902738	PID: 5933934
Name: ST GEORGES ANGLICAN CHURCH			
Feature Type:	Structure Type: Church	Site Feature Type: Hedge	Dating: 1800 - 1829 1826/1883
			Access Restrictions: Restricted
			Inspection Date: October 96 P Davies
			Style: Colonial Gothick Picturesque
			Grid ref: 5426 545950 5262700
Indication of Significance: High probable significance		Theme: Worship Building Settlement and Towns	
Material:	Stone	Corrugated iron	Listings: National Trust SMC Schedule 3 AHC
Condition:	Fair		
Integrity:	Intact		
National Estate Criteria:	A4 B4 C2 D2 E1 F1 G1 H1		Photograph Index: 2:3-4, 9
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

A simple rectangular church building, the first in the town, set in a large square fronting the main street and formerly fronting Walker Street. The building has buttresses on each face and diagonally located on the corners. There are three gothic windows on each side and the main end window to the east and door to the west. there are no additions on the building. The glazing has been changed to an inappropriate amber glass that destroys the light quality of the building. The roof is corrugated iron and the west gable is surmounted by a stone cross. The barge boards are finished with decorative motifs. The stonework is picked finish and laid random ashlar. The walls are buttressed, detailing is generally Gothic, windows are lancets with lugsills.

A set of memorial gates and stone flanking wall are located on the street frontage dedicated in 1954. There is a row of memorial stones along the frontage to the fallen from the Second World War; each has a plaque located on it and they face in two directions.

The building is in some structural difficulty and has bad stone deterioration around the base. The building is bound at roof level with a steel strap which appears to stop the walls spreading. This would serve to keep the corners together but would not stop other movement. The stone deterioration on the east and north side is severe and requires attention which may include drainage improvements.

HISTORY:

Built by Grubb Bros in 1883-4 at a cost of £1030, on the site of the large 1828 convict built church. Until 1828 church services were held in barns and later the schoolhouse. The first minister, the Rev Garrard, was in the payroll of the colonial government as religious instruction was regarded as an essential element in the moral redemption of convicts and the maintenance of the moral life of the community. The new church was erected at the insistence of Rev C Brammall as the earlier structure had become dilapidated and dangerous, which was also described as of 'very great inconvenience . . . in consequence of its inordinate size'. At its opening The Mercury recorded the following.

The church itself is a plain unassuming structure, standing at the corner of Gordon and Fitzroy-streets, on the exact spot upon which stood the old State building which was erected in 1826 . . . the dimensions of the new building are 38ft., by a depth of 64ft., and a height of about 18ft. The seating accommodation in the old church has been retained for its substitute, with the exception of two seats in the front, which have been reserved for the choir, and there will be holding capacity for about 200 persons. At the back are two vestries, but there is no ornamental porch in front. . . . although owing possibly to financial considerations, the designers have worked upon the principle that plainness unadorned is adorned the most, the church will afford a pleasing addition to the somewhat limited architectural beauties of the town.

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The church has had extensive conservation work in the past five years with stabilisation of the foundations and replastering costing up to \$44 000.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by the title boundary of the property and is within the wider, Gordon St, conservation precinct.

COMMENTS:

The church with the grounds and graveyard are very important elements in the street and townscape of Sorell. The building is of particular interest as it was rebuilt in 1883 from the original 1826 construction. The building is associated with important persons in the area. The church is one of three very significant church buildings in the town and is at the civic centre of the town.

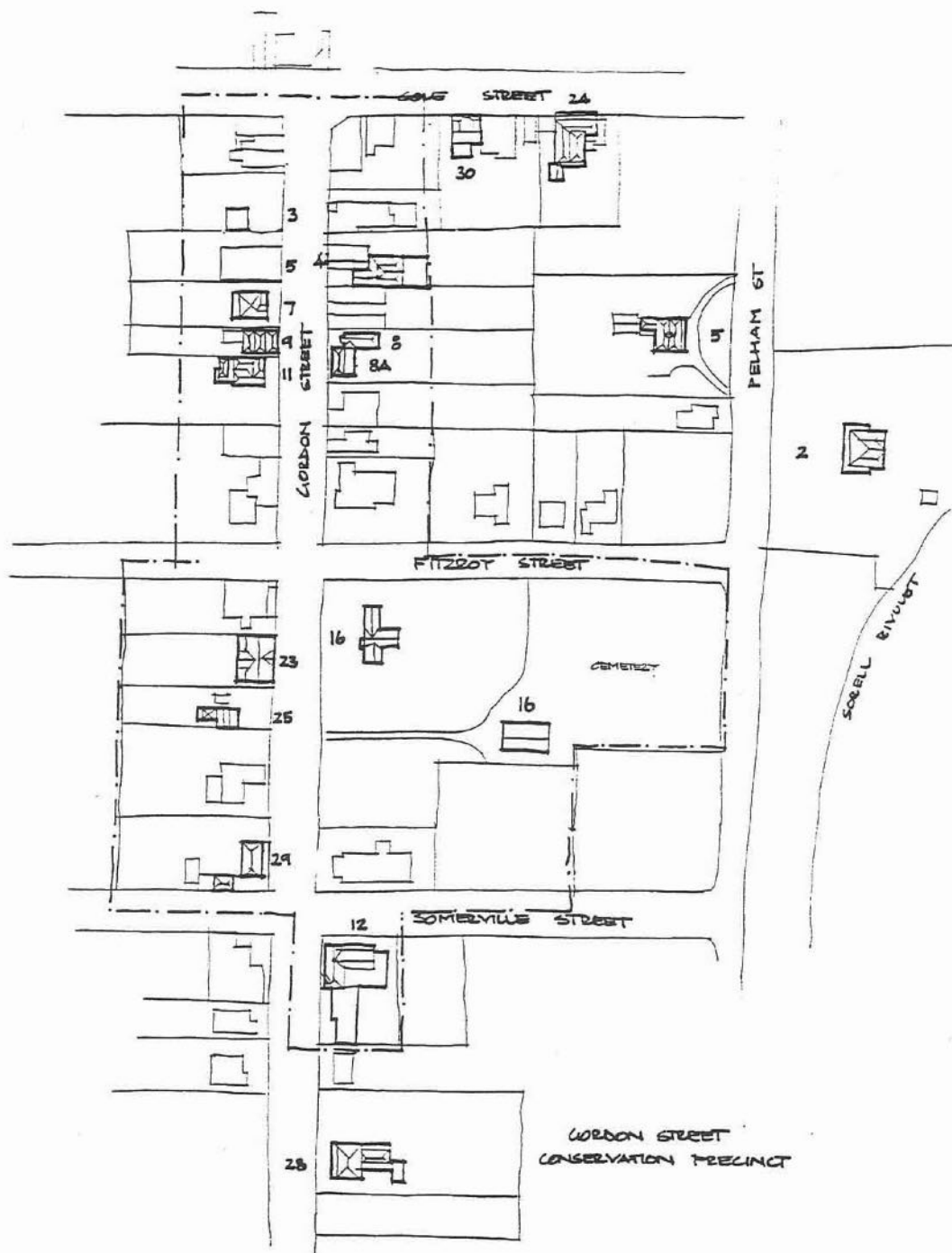
It meets Criteria A4, B2, C2, D2, E1, F1 and G1 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. It should continue to be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and the Register of the National Estate and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

The Mercury 12 June 1884.

Oral informant: Stan Mead, ph: 6265 2777

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