
NAME: Slate Culvert, St Judes Street, WILLUNGA

CURRENT USE: culvert
FORMER USE: Culvert
DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION: C. 1864 with later alterations and restorations work

LOCATION: Sited on public land, located immediately north of 33 St Andrews Terrace and 4 St Judes Street, Willunga, extending north across St Judes Street to 5 St Judes Street, disposing into Lot 186 St Andrews Terrace.

LAND DESCRIPTION: Section 258, Hundred of Willunga

OWNER: City of Onkaparinga

RECOMMENDATION: Local Heritage Place



St Judes Street culvert, through which the 'unnamed Willunga creek' disposes into Lot 186 St Andrews Terrace, Willunga (GGA, 2022)

NAME: Slate Culvert, St Judes Street, WILLUNGA

DESCRIPTION:

C.1864 culvert constructed of slate with dry stone wall construction with slate capping and slate slab paving, extending underneath St Judes Street between 33 St Andrews Terrace and 5 St Judes Street, disposing into Lot 186 St Andrews Terrace. Early timber fencing to both sides of culvert.

It is recommended that the Slate Culvert, St Judes Street, Willunga be included on the South Australian Heritage Register as a Local Heritage place.

A delineation of significant historic fabric is provided in the Extent of Listing.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The Slate Culvert, St Judes Street, Willunga is of significance as a substantial and well-documented drainage culvert dating to an early period for the Willunga township. Constructed in c.1864 the culvert represents both the use of Willunga slate as a construction material during the township's earliest developments, as well as a well-documented example of drainage infrastructure, a significant theme in the township's history.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (As defined in Section 67(1) of the PDI Act 2016):

- a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area; being a substantial, well-documented example of a drainage culvert constructed of Willunga slate, a highly significant local construction material strongly associated with the Willunga township. The theme of slate constructed engineering and infrastructure, particularly relating to drainage, is significant for the township.
 - b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; being a significant local example of a slate culvert within the Willunga township. Much of the Willunga township's early infrastructure and buildings are constructed of this material in this manner, a construction method used from the mid-19th century well into the 20th century.
 - d) it displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area; being a large, well-documented culvert constructed of Willunga slate, an important material and construction method for the township, dating from the town's initial developments during the mid-19th century.
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RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES:

Theme 2: Regional Life in the Southern Vales

2.3 Construction using local materials

Theme 8: Transportation and Human Movement

8.4 Early road and drainage infrastructure

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The slate culvert of St Judes Street, Willunga does not appear to have been assessed as part of any previous heritage survey.

While little historical relating to the culvert has been historically identified, the Willunga History News blog identifies that the 'beautifully constructed dry stone slate culvert', sited between the Uniting Church and 'Spargo's Cottage' at 5 St Judes Street and disposing into Lot 186 St Andrews Street, was originally constructed around 1864. Willunga District Council minutes from 1864 provide further descriptive information:

The Council agreed that as soon as labour could be procured Mr. Middlebrook should have a small culvert made near Spargo's, to carry the spring water; the top and bottom to be flagged. (Willunga, Adelaide Observer, Sat 17 Dec 1864, p.3).

Additional identified Council minutes from September 1864 may also relate to the above project, stating that "W. H. Polkinghorne's tender for culvert near Wesleyan Chapel (now Uniting Church), 8 pounds 14 shillings accepted." (Willunga, South Australian Weekly Chronicle, Sat 3 Sep 1864, p.8).

It is likely both above descriptions relate to the St Judes Street culvert, suggesting both a construction date of c.1864-5 and that the culvert was constructed by W. H. Polkinghorne, son of Thomas Polkinghorne, a prominent Willunga citizen. Timber fencing to both sides of the c.1864 culvert likely date from a similar period and comprise an important heritage element of the site. The Willunga History News blog also identifies that the culvert was restored in 2002 due to the efforts of Jeremy Keyte and the skill of Doug March.

Landscaping work associated with the construction of the c.2010s residence at 4 St Judes Street, Willunga does currently encroach on the heritage fabric of the c.1864 drain, though extensive original fabric remains evident.

The St Jude Street culvert, like the fine slate culvert at the five-way intersection of High Street, is an excellent and well-documented example of mid-19th century drainage infrastructure for Willunga, constructed from the township's idiosyncratic Willunga slate with a high degree of original fabric.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

The form and materials of all early masonry fabric, including dry stone slate walls, slate capping and slab flooring to southern end, all intact masonry fabric comprising the culvert beneath St Judes Street and all masonry fabric comprising the northern end of the culvert. Early timber fencing surviving to both sides of the culvert are considered of significance and are included in the listing.

All later modifications, including those associated with the bituminisation of St Judes Street and c.2010 landscaping to 4 St Judes Street, are not included in the listing.

REFERENCES:

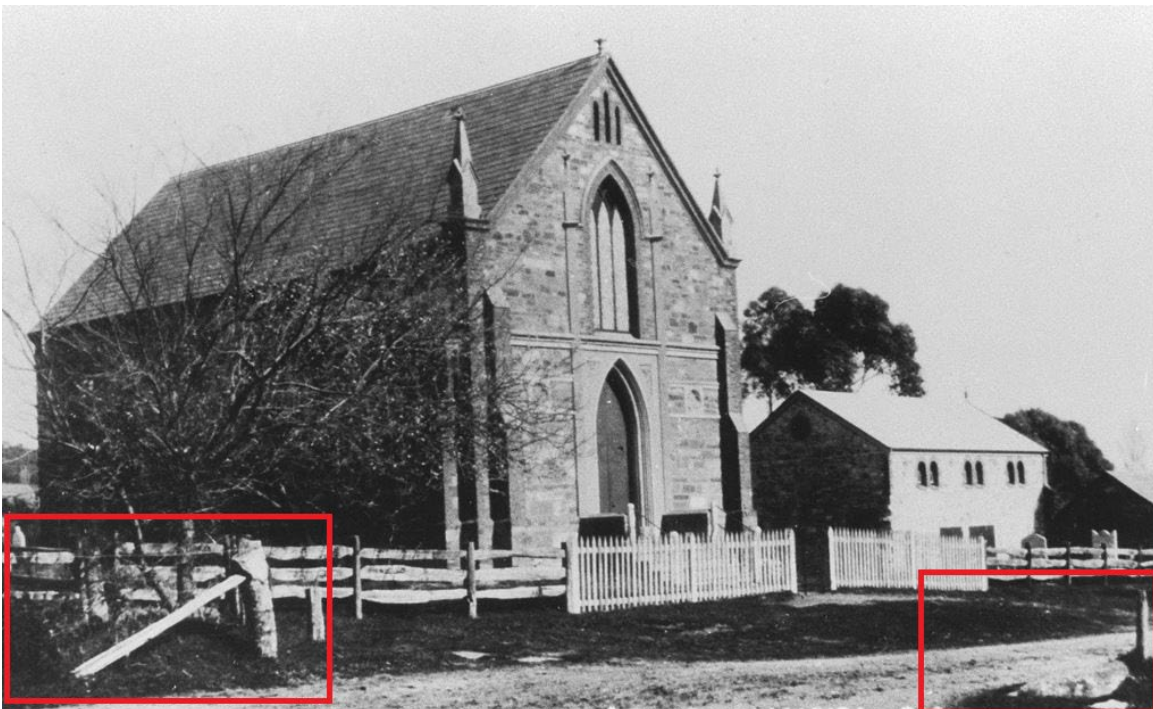
Willunga, Adelaide Observer, Sat 17 Dec 1864, p.3
<https://willungahistorynews.wordpress.com/2017/12/>, accessed 16/3/2022.

SITE MAPPING:



Site of St Judes Street culvert, extending north from 33 St Andrews Street to Lot 186 St Andrews Street, Willunga (Planning SA SAPPa)

HISTORICAL IMAGES:



C.1909 photograph of Willunga Uniting Church and hall, 33 St Andrews Terrace, Willunga; fabric associated with St Judes Street culvert highlighted within red rectangles (SLSA B 55417/45).

OTHER IMAGES:



C.1864 dry stone walls and slate capping to culvert's southern end near 33 St Andrews Terrace; recent landscaping associated with 4 St Judes Street infringes the historic fabric (GGA, 2022).



Masonry fabric to the southern end of the St Judes Street culvert (GGA, 2022)



Culvert disposing across St Judes Street from 33 St Andrews Terrace to Lot 186 St Andrews Terrace. Early timber fence posts to both sides of culvert (GGA, 2022)



Northern end of culvert with early timber fencuing (GGA, 2022)