

NAME: Star of Greece Cafe, Lot 11 Esplanade, PORT WILLUNGA

PLACE NO.: Local, HID 5543

CURRENT USE:	Cafe
FORMER USE:	Cafe
DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION:	C.mid-20 th century
LOCATION:	Lot 11 Esplanade, PORT WILLUNGA
LAND DESCRIPTION:	CT 5432/743
OWNER:	City of Onkaparinga
REGISTER STATUS:	Local, HID 5543



‘Star of Greece Café’, Esplanade, Port Willunga (GGA, 2021)

NAME: Star of Greece Cafe, Lot 11 The Esplanade, PORT WILLUNGA

PLACE NO.: Local, HID 5543

DESCRIPTION:

A c.mid-20th century former kiosk now converted into a restaurant; original building constructed of timber and lightweight cladding (cement sheet and corrugated iron).

Noted as recently sympathetically refurbished in 1997, extensive additions dating to various periods in the last 20 years (ie. 2000s-2020s) now envelope the original structure. While original fabric, including original skillion roof profile and sash windows, remain, these are obscured by developments.

The 1997 survey noted that the original materials are not durable in the long-term, it is likely much original fabric has been replaced during construction works since this time. While the site remains a popular local landmark and tourist destination, this significance is no longer represented by evident physical historic fabric.

It is recommended that the 'Star of Greece Café' at 1 The Esplanade, Port Willunga be delisted as a Local Heritage place.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

Not applicable – to be delisted

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

An assessment of the heritage values of the 'Star of Greece' café, Lot 11 Esplanade, Port Willunga has been undertaken according to the Local Heritage criteria of Section 23 of the *Development Act 1993*. The heritage value of the place has **not** been identified with any criteria, as such delisting as a Local Heritage place has been recommended.

a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area;

While the Star of Greece retains strong cultural and social ties to the local Port Willunga area, this cultural and social significance is not sufficiently represented in any tangible way within the minimal surviving heritage fabric of the current building. **Criteria a) is not met.**

b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic to the local area;

While the site and usage of the 'Star of Greece' café reflect Port Willunga's identity as a holiday and tourism destination, this significance is not sufficiently represented within existing heritage fabric. **Criteria b) is not met.**

c) it has played an important part in the lives of local residents;

While the 'Star of Greece' café has been a popular café and restaurant in Port Willunga, retaining a high reputation within the South Australian community, this significance is not sufficiently represented by existing heritage fabric, which has been severely compromised by extensive alterations and additions. **Criteria c) is not met.**

d) it displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area;

While the building's distinctive skillion roof is a notable feature within the local district, this feature is not of sufficient architectural or construction merit in the local district to warrant listing as meeting Local Heritage significance. The surviving skillion roof is also now largely hidden from view by extensive recent developments. **Criteria d) is not met.**

e) it is associated with a notable local personality or event;

The historical and cultural values of the 'Star of Greece' café have not been identified with any notable local personalities or events. While named after the 'Star of Greece' shipwreck of 1888, the fabric of the mid-20th century café does not relate to this event in any tangible way. **Criteria e) is not met.**

f) it is a notable landmark in the area;

The 'Star of Greece' café is a notable landmark and popular destination in the Port Willunga district. However the form of the original building has now been heavily modified and altered, leaving little historical fabric to tangibly represent the site's cultural value and history as a local destination. **Criteria f) is not met.**

g) in the case of a tree (without limiting a preceding paragraph) – it is of special historical or social significance or importance within the local area;

The 'Star of Greece' café's significance does not extend to include any botanical examples of significance. **Criteria g) is not met.**

RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES:

Not applicable – to be delisted

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Named after the 'Star of Greece' shipwreck at Port Willunga in 1888, the 'Star of Greece' café has long been a popular restaurant and local attraction at Port Willunga. McDougall & Vines' 1997 Willunga heritage survey associates the structure with the local fishing industry and as a kiosk for visitors to the nearby beach.

Built on former Crown Lands, it is currently unclear when the former kiosk was constructed but likely dates to the mid-20th century.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

Not applicable – to be delisted

REFERENCES:

McDougall & Vines, 1997, *Willunga District Heritage Survey*, p. 178.

SITE MAPPING:



Site of Lot 11 Esplanade, Port Willunga (Planning SA SAPPa)

HISTORICAL IMAGES:



Original 'Star of Greece Café' building in 1997 (*Willunga District Heritage Survey*)

OTHER IMAGES:



Extensive additions to original 'Star of Greece Café' building (GGA, 2021)



Extensive ongoing additions at 'Star of Greece Café' (GGA, 2021)



Extensive ongoing additions at 'Star of Greece Café' (GGA, 2021)