

JAMISONTOWN UNITING CHURCH
185 MULGOA ROAD, JAMISONTOWN

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

PREPARED FOR
Penrith City Council

May 2026

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BRIEF

This heritage assessment has been commissioned by Penrith City Council to consider the significance of the property at 185 Mulgoa Road, Jamisontown which is legally described as Lots 24 to 26 DP 456311 and Lot 1 DP 910925.

1.2 STUDY AREA

The location of the property is depicted in yellow on the aerial photograph below. The property is located in the suburb of Jamisontown, 56 kilometres west of the city of Sydney. It is located within the eastern half of the local government area of the City of Penrith and is part of the Greater Western Sydney region.

Jamisontown is a residential and industrial suburb with an expansive tract of former farmland. The suburban and industrial areas are located along Mulgoa Road, which is a major arterial road. The suburb is dissected by the prominent and historically significant Surveyors Creek, which is tributary of the Nepean River.



Figure 1: Location of 185 Mulgoa Road, Jamisontown (Source: Six Maps, NSW Spatial Services.)

1.3 DEFINITIONS

Definitions are based on Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013 and are as follows:

Place means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations.

Fabric means all the physical material of the place, including components, fixtures, contents, and objects.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction.

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of materials [new or old] into the fabric.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit the existing use or a proposed use.

Use means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.

Compatible use means a use which respects the cultural significance of the place. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

Setting means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.

Related place means a place that contributes to the cultural significance of another place.

Related object means an object that contributes to the cultural significance of a place but is not at the place.

Associations mean the special connections that exist between people and a place.

Meanings denote what a place signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.

Interpretation means all the ways of presenting the cultural significance of a place.

1.4 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The report provides a heritage assessment, which generally follows the guidelines for Assessing Heritage Significance published by the Heritage Council of NSW in May 2023.

1.5 AUTHOR IDENTIFICATION

This document was prepared and written by Vanessa Holtham, BSc (Arch), BArch, MURP (Heritage Conservation), BLaws, NSW ARB No. 8614 and Kirrily Sullivan, PhD (Arch), MHeritCons, BA (Hons).

1.6 STATUTE AND STANDARDS

The following were used to inform this preliminary heritage assessment:

- *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW);
- *Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010* ('PLEP')
- Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 2013
- *Assessing Heritage Significance* published by DPE, May 2023.
- *Heritage Council of NSW - NSW Historical Themes*, 4 October 2001.

1.7 SITE INSPECTION

An inspection of the site was undertaken on Wednesday 13 May 2026.

1.8 LIMITATIONS

This report does not include an assessment of Aboriginal or archaeological significance.

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2. HISTORICAL ANALYSIS

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides an understanding of the historical development of the site. Analysing and understanding historical context is an important consideration in the assessment of cultural significance, informing the assessment of historical significance and historical associations of significance. The main repositories for research documentation were the State Library of New South Wales and Penrith City Council including building plans, building and development application files, and valuation and rate records. A local studies history of the property also informed the background information for the site history.

2.2 INDIGENOUS HISTORY

The area of Penrith was originally inhabited by the Mulgoa people of the Darug language group. The Mulgoa people historically inhabited the Mulgoa Valley and Penrith region, living as hunter-gatherers in bark huts. The area was rich in resources, especially the nearby Nepean River.

The Mulgoa lived in a territory stretching from the river and participated in significant cultural practices such as the Kuringal ceremony (tooth evulsion) at sites that later became colonial properties. Following early nineteenth century land grants to white settlers including the Cox family and Thomas Jamison, the Mulgoa people faced immediate loss of land, which forced a shift in their traditional way of life. While there were areas of peaceful coexistence, the Mulgoa were heavily affected by the widespread Frontier Wars, including clashes with settlers in the nearby Hawkesbury and Green Hills areas.

2.3 EARLY EUROPEAN HISTORY OF JAMISONTOWN

Jamisontown originated from an 1805 land grant of 1000 acres to Surgeon-general Thomas Jamison (c.1753-1811) and smaller grants of 50 to 100 acres made to Thomas Rose, Obadiah Ikin and Charles Thompson in 1809.

Thomas Jamison was appointed surgeon's mate of the Sirius, arriving in New South Wales in the First Fleet in 1788, and was soon appointed as assistant surgeon at Norfolk Island. He remained there until 1799 and was appointed surgeon-general of New South Wales in 1801.

Jamison was heavily involved in trade. He was active in bringing wheat and pork from Norfolk Island and invested heavily in the sandalwood trade. He was granted 1000

acres on the Nepean in 1805, and later acquired farms at George's River and South Creek. After returning to England, he signed over his property in New South Wales to his son Sir John Jamison who came to the colony in 1814 to take it up.

Sir John Jamison (1776-1844) was an Irish born physician and landowner. When he inherited his father's properties, he arrived in Sydney in the *Broxbornebury* and soon became associated with the public and official affairs of the colony. He accompanied Governor Macquarie on his visit to the interior in June 1815, was a founder of the Bank of New South Wales in 1817 and explored the Warragamba River in 1818.

By the 1820s Jamison was 'one of the first Landed Proprietors in the Colony'; he acquired more land by grant and purchase and extended his Penrith estate to its maximum extent of 9600 acres. It was here c.1825 he built *Regentville*, a colonial style country house, named in honour of George IV, the former Prince Regent. Believed to be designed by either Henry Kitchen or Francis Greenway,¹ the house contained 15 rooms, including a breakfast room, billiard room and a library as well as a grand entrance hall. It quickly gained a reputation as one of the finest houses in New South Wales. *Regentville* was developed in the English rural manner, with a chapel, vineyards, an irrigation scheme, a bake house and a woollen mill. The tweed mill was erected c. 1840 and was considered to be an ambitious undertaking in requiring the construction of a three storey, eight bay brick-built structure with steam driven machinery. The venture initially collapsed along with the economy of the colony in the early 1840s but was intermittently revived though until the 1860s.²

Jameson established an experimental garden at Regentville, including the planting of imported crops and grasses, tobacco production and vines. In 1822, Regentville was reported to have had a good orchard of apples, quinces, peaches, apricots, oranges, lemons, grapevines and figs.³

In the early 1840s the great financial crisis destroyed Sir John Jamison, and he died at *Regentville* in 1844. In 1844, and again in 1863, the estate was put up for sale. With the breakup of the estate, present day Jamisontown formed part of the Western Division in the later sale of the 1860s. The plan of subdivision prepared by surveyor Samuel Jackson (Roll Plan 508) shows a tenant's farmhouse in the location of Ikin's 60-acre grant (in the vicinity of present-day Robinson Park). The Western Division subdivision provided for a number of farms comprising areas up to 40 acres. In 1883 700 acres was

¹ Paul Davies (2007) *Penrith Heritage Study Vol 2 – Thematic History*, p. 56.

² Ibid., p. 29.

³ Ibid., p. 22.

re-subdivided as the 'model township' of Jamison Town (Deposited Plans 1119 and 1687) which provided mainly villa and town allotments. Christiansen's brickworks, in operation by March 1884, was also established here.⁴



Figure 2: Regentville c. 1832 (Source: State Library of NSW, Dictionary of Sydney 'Regentville')

2.4 EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT AND SUBDIVISION OF JAMISONTOWN

Following the subdivision of Jamison's property towards the end of the nineteenth century, the increase in local residential population was reflected in the opening of a public school in 1882.

Present day Jamisontown was gazetted as a neighbourhood in 1976. The marked suburban growth in this and surrounding areas with the influx of young families in the late twentieth century has resulted in the opening of a high school in 1982.⁵

2.5 THE SUBJECT SITE: 185 MULGOA ROAD, JAMISONTOWN

The Jamisontown United Church and Sunday School was established in 1889. Its official opening was held on 31 March 1889, after the Sunday School taking place at the home of Mrs Smith and her daughters for many years. Elizabeth Smith migrated from England aged twenty. She lived in Sydney and married Mr Croome. They moved to

⁴ Ibid., p. 107.

⁵ Ibid., p. 107.

Clarendon, but Elizabeth was soon widowed and left with two small children. Sometime later she married James Smith and moved with him to Blaxland's Crossing, where she they opened a grocery store at Mulgoa in which they remained until they retired. James died soon afterwards, and Elizabeth moved in with her son, who had a bakery io High Street, Mulgoa. It was from this house she ran a Sunday School for the local children, helped by her two daughters.⁶ As times went on, the numbers increased until there were as many as 45 children and 5 teachers, which lead to the erection of the new building in 1889.⁷

The establishment of the United School was largely driven by John Price, superintendent and secretary of the school. He was also an active supporter of St Stephens Church of England and the Salvation Army. He was the first Town Clerk of Penrith and served as an Alderman. According to newspaper reports, 500 people attended his funeral, including the children of the Sunday School.⁸

The church began as an all-denominational United Sunday School to cater for the growing population of the Jamisontown subdivisions of mostly small farms. The school, described as a 'neat little brick structure', was built on Stuart Street "on a piece of land 50 x 30 feet purchased for £10, the interior dimensions being 30 x 20. Plans and specifications were gratuitously supplied by Mr W Sykes, the well-known architect of Penrith, but were not adopted in their entirety. The contract was entrusted to Messrs. Waugh (for brickwork) and Petith (for carpentering)".⁹ The total cost was reported to be about £150, of which £30 was raised through the effort of the committee, the principal subscribers being Mr and Mrs Ewan and Mr Jamison.¹⁰

At the opening of the new building, Mr SE Lees MLA from Sydney officiated, stating he did hope that the School House he had been asked to open would be the scene of many a pleasant gathering of men and women united to help each other and make preparation for the life that is to come. As for the little ones, he understood the building was for their special benefit.¹¹ In 1899, the school purchased the adjoining land, fronting Mulgoa Road, at a cost of £20, seen as "necessary as the growth of the school in the past shows plainly that the day is not far distant when it will have to be enlarged, as, as matters stood, we had no land for such a purpose".¹²

⁶ Penrith City Council (2009) *Booklet on the 120 Year Anniversary of the Jamison Uniting Church*, p. 3.

⁷ 'Opening of the United School, Jamison Town', *Nepean Times*, 6 April 1899, p. 5.

⁸ Penrith City Council (2009) *Booklet on the 120 Year Anniversary of the Jamison Uniting Church*, p. 4.

⁹ 'Opening of the United School, Jamison Town', *Nepean Times*, 6 April 1899, p. 5.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² 'Jamisontown United Sunday School', *Nepean Times*, 8 April 1899, p. 7.

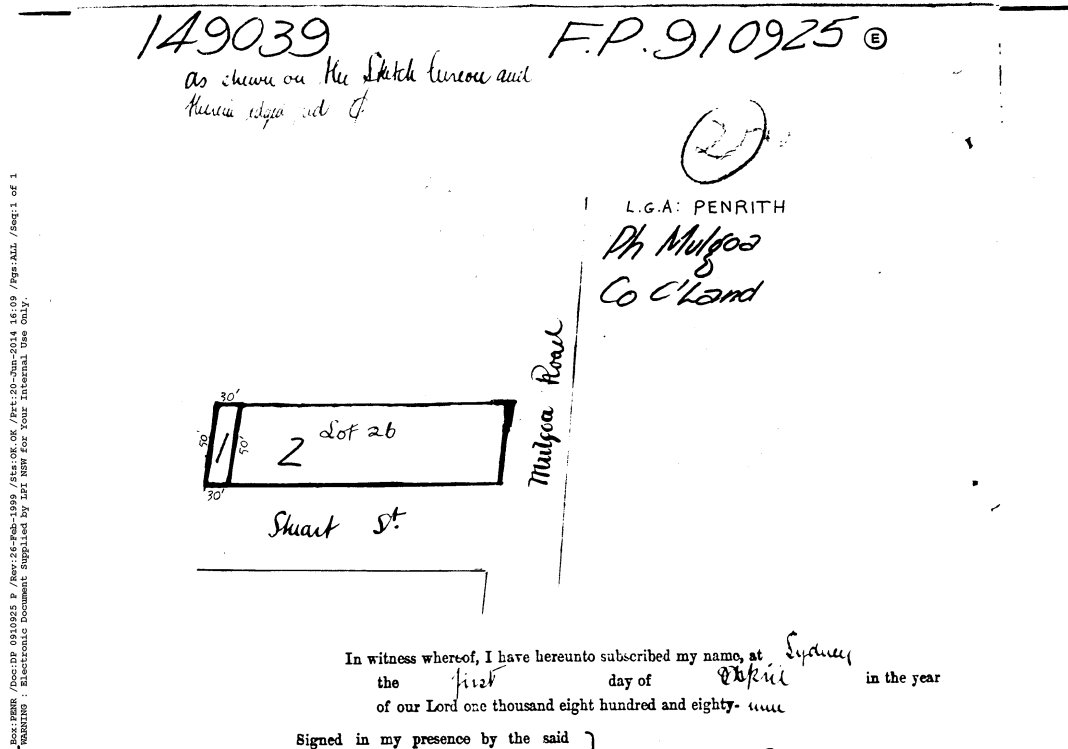


Figure 3: Deposited Plan 910925, 1889, indicating the site of the original church building on Lot 1, and the additional land purchased in 1889, marked as Lot 2. (Source: NSW Land Registry Services)



Figure 4: United Church Jamisontown, c.1910 (Source: Penrith City Council Call No. LH034)

On 20 September 2009 the Uniting Church celebrated the 120th anniversary of the Jamisontown Congregation in a service opened by Jim Aitken, Mayor of Penrith and conducted by Rev Dr Murray Earl.

2.6 THE ARCHITECT: WILLIAM SYKES

William Sykes (1859-1924) was a prominent architect in the Penrith area. Sykes was born in Yorkshire and arrived in New South Wales in 1889. He ran his architectural firm out of offices in both Penrith and Sydney City.



Figure 5: Advertisement for the services of William Sykes, Architect and Building Surveyor, Nepean Times, 21 October 1893, p. 4 (Source: Trove)

Sykes was responsible for the design of several significant buildings both within the Penrith LGA and further afield. Surviving buildings that are listed in the Penrith LEP include buildings outlined over the following pages.

1. 'Mimosa', dwelling, fence and garden, St Mary's, 1894 (PLEP Item I219)



Figure 6: Mimosa, St Marys, 1894 (currently Mirrabooka Study Centre) (Source: www.mirrabooka.org.au)

2. Governor Philip Special Hospital, Penrith, 1895 (PLEP Item I74)



Figure 7: Governor Phillip Special Hospital – Opening 1895 (Source: Penrith City Council)

3. Fulton's Store (former), 1890s (PLEP Item I97)

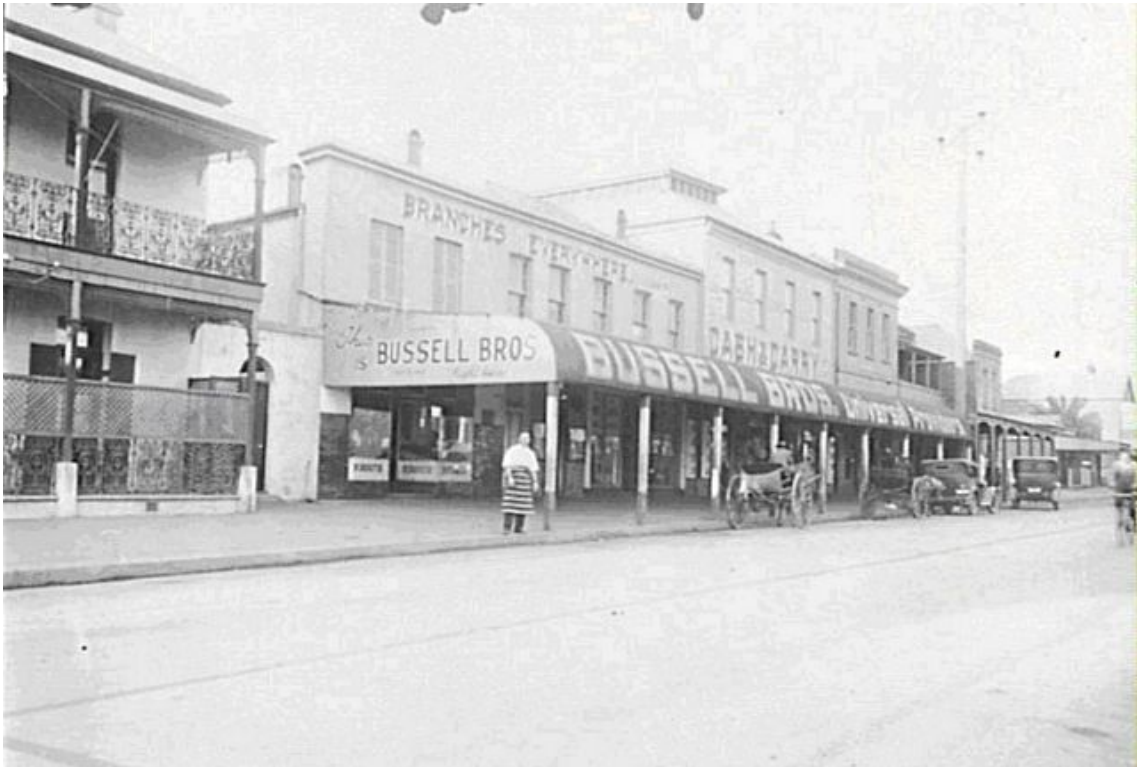


Figure 8: Fulton's Store (former) c.1900 (Source: Penrith City Library)

4. Bronte, Gidley Street, St Marys, 1889 (PLEP Item I299)



Figure 9: Bronte, 2020 (Source: Old Sydney Album Facebook)

5. 38 Gidley Street, St Marys (PLEP Item 298)



Figure 10: 40 Gidley Street, St Marys (Source: Heritage NSW)

6. Rooty Hill School of Arts, Rooty Hill, 1902 (Blacktown LEP Item 102)



Figure 11: Rooty Hill School of Arts, 2016 (Source: Blacktown Council)

2.7 SUMMARY OF BUILDING APPLICATIONS

NO.	BA DETAILS	STATUS
5/229/64	Large addition to the rear, including classrooms, kitchen, main hall, concrete patio	Approved
DA03/2034	Construction of a childcare attached to the rear of the church hall with play area and parking. This appears not to have proceeded.	Approved
DA06/1330	New fencing and gates to Mulgoa Road and Stuart Street	Approved

3. PHYSICAL ANALYSIS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section provides a summary physical analysis of the site and surrounds however this is limited by the inability to undertake an internal inspection of the buildings.

3.2 THE SURROUNDING AREA

The surrounding built environment is characterised by detached housing and large industrial units with expansive hard standing areas, dating from the late 20th and early 21st Centuries. There are some pre 1950 freestanding cottages fronting or near Mulgoa Road. Prior to the later subdivisions, the area was largely cleared with pockets of orchards and timbered forests and there are pockets of regenerated open forest along Mulgoa Road.

3.3 THE SITE

The Site contains a modest building dating from 1889 which has historically been used as a church. This church building is sited in the southwest corner of the amalgamated larger site and has a frontage to Stuart Street. The building features a simple and small rectangular plan, typical of a modest country church. It is constructed with sand mould apricot brick walls and a corrugated iron roof. The front elevation, facing Stuart Street, features two gothic arched recesses within the brickwork. The lower arch contains a stained-glass depiction of a crucifix and a dove. The upper arch is located near the peak of the gable and contains the wording “AD 1889 United School”, commemorating the construction date of the building and its original name. Both arches are topped by an arched plaster detail.

The eastern elevation, facing Mulgoa Road, features the narthex providing entry to the church building. The narthex is flat roofed and has double timber entry doors. Both the east and west elevations feature attached buttresses, which divide the walls into four bays with each containing lancet shaped windows with timber frames. Each window is topped by a decorative plaster arch detail. An interior inspection has not been undertaken however, there is a Roll of Honour board, which contains the names of 34 local residents who lost their lives during World War I.

The building was extended in 1964 to include a brick church hall and classrooms appended to the north and as part of this addition, the original northern church elevation was incorporated. Two ancillary buildings were subsequently constructed in the north-western corner of the Site and whilst a 2003 application for a child-care centre did not proceed, a black metal fence demarcates the Mulgoa Road boundary.

3.4 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE SITE AND CONTEXT

The aerial photography from 1943, 1947, 1955, 1975, 1986 and current indicates that the church building remained the sole construction on the larger site until the mid 1960s. In 1966 a large addition was constructed to the rear of the original church building, for the purpose of classrooms and associated areas including a hall, kitchen, and patio.



Figure 12: Indicative historic layers of the existing Site with the core church building shown in red.

INDICATIVE HISTORICAL LAYERS

	c.1889 United School Church		c.1980s Ancillary Building
	c.1964 Hall + Classroom		c.2006 Boundary Fence
	c.1970s Narthex + Ancillary Building		





Figure 13: 1943 Aerial image (Source: Penrith City Council)



Figure 14: 1947 Aerial Image (Source: Penrith City Council)



Figure 15: 1955 Aerial image (Source: Penrith City Council)



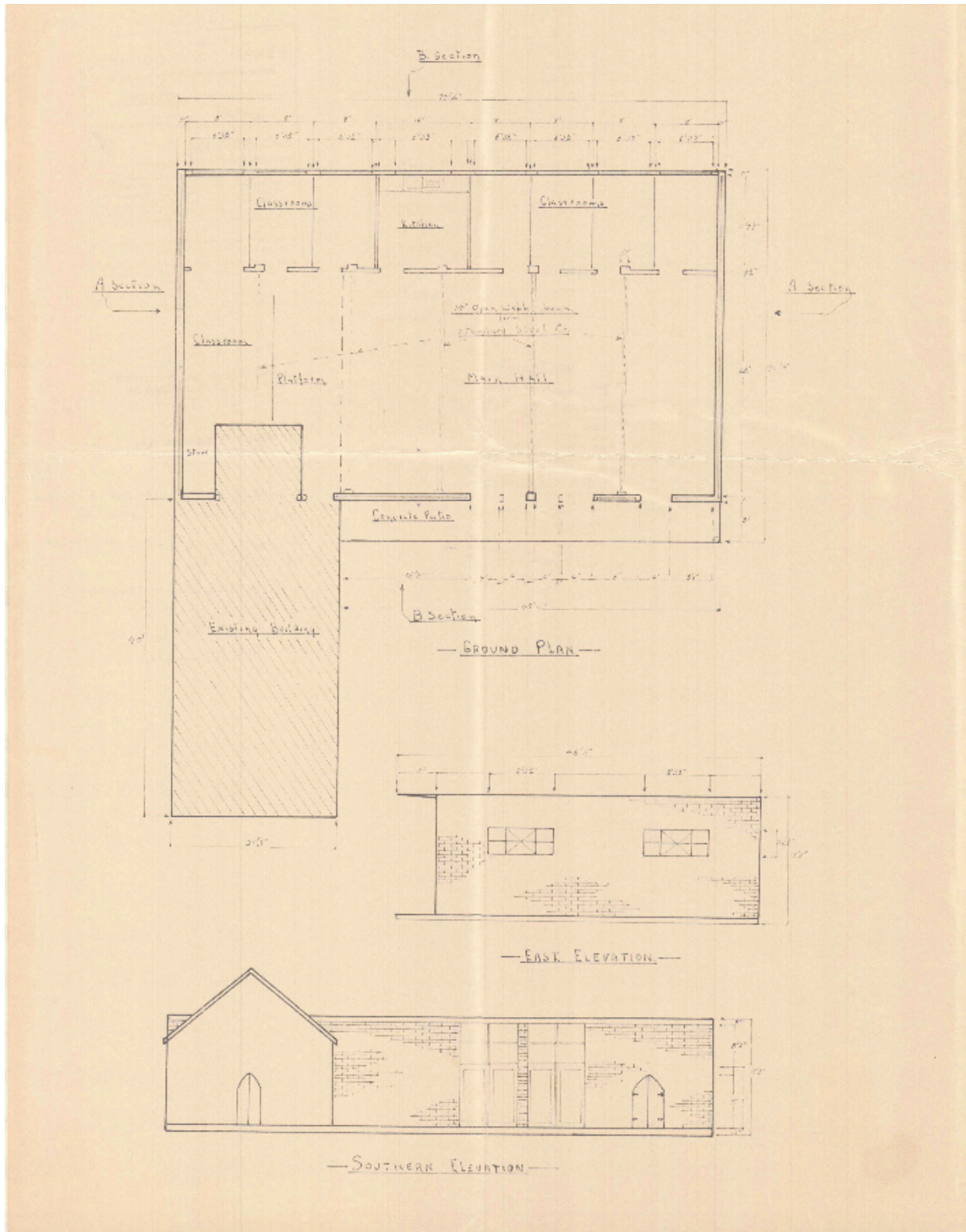
Figure 16: 1975 Aerial image (Source: Penrith City Council)



Figure 17: 1986 Aerial image (Source: Penrith City Council)



Figure 18: Current aerial photo of the subject site and surrounds.



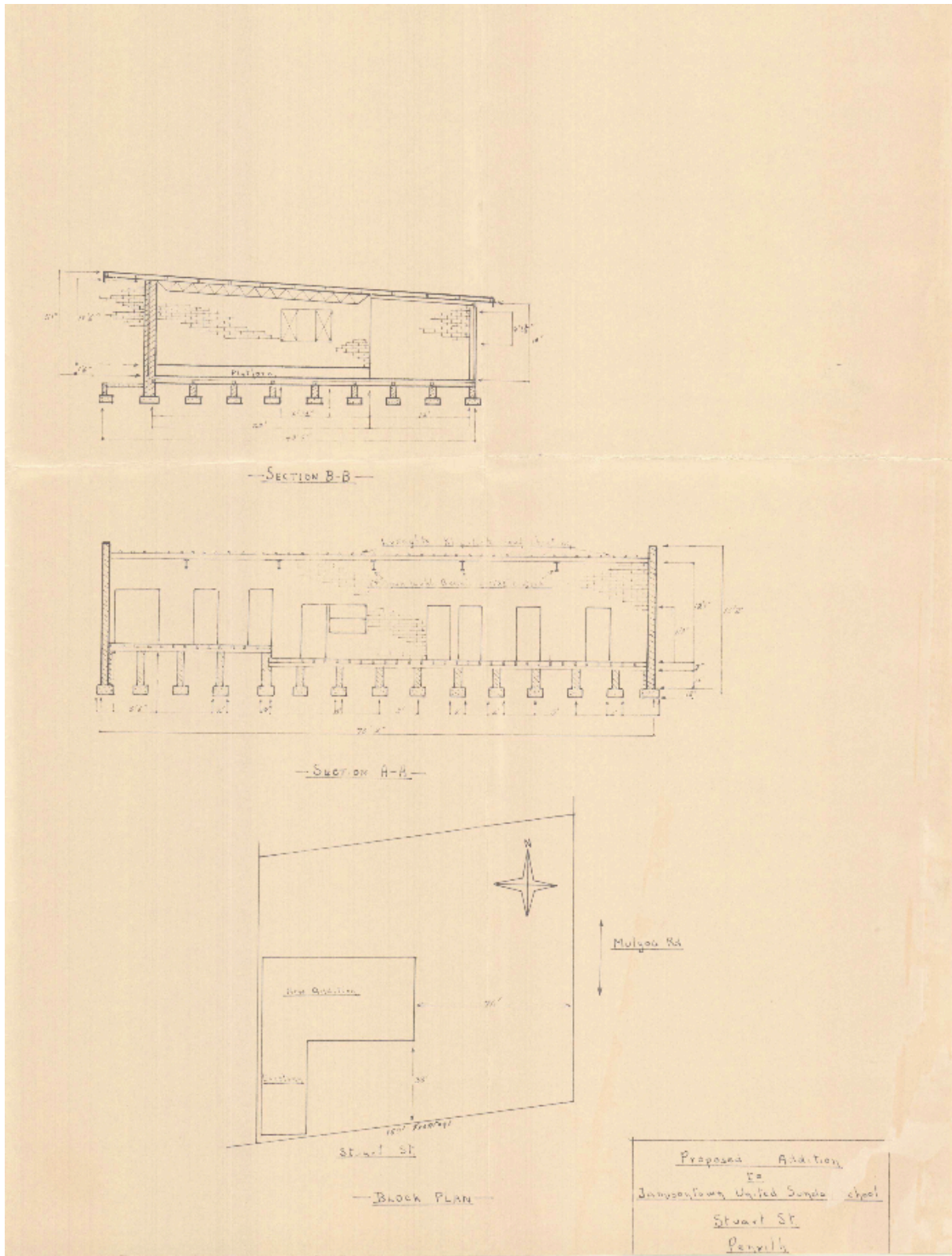


Figure 19: Building Application 5/229/64 indicating the location of original church and details of the addition of the main hall and classrooms, 1964 (Source: Penrith City Council)

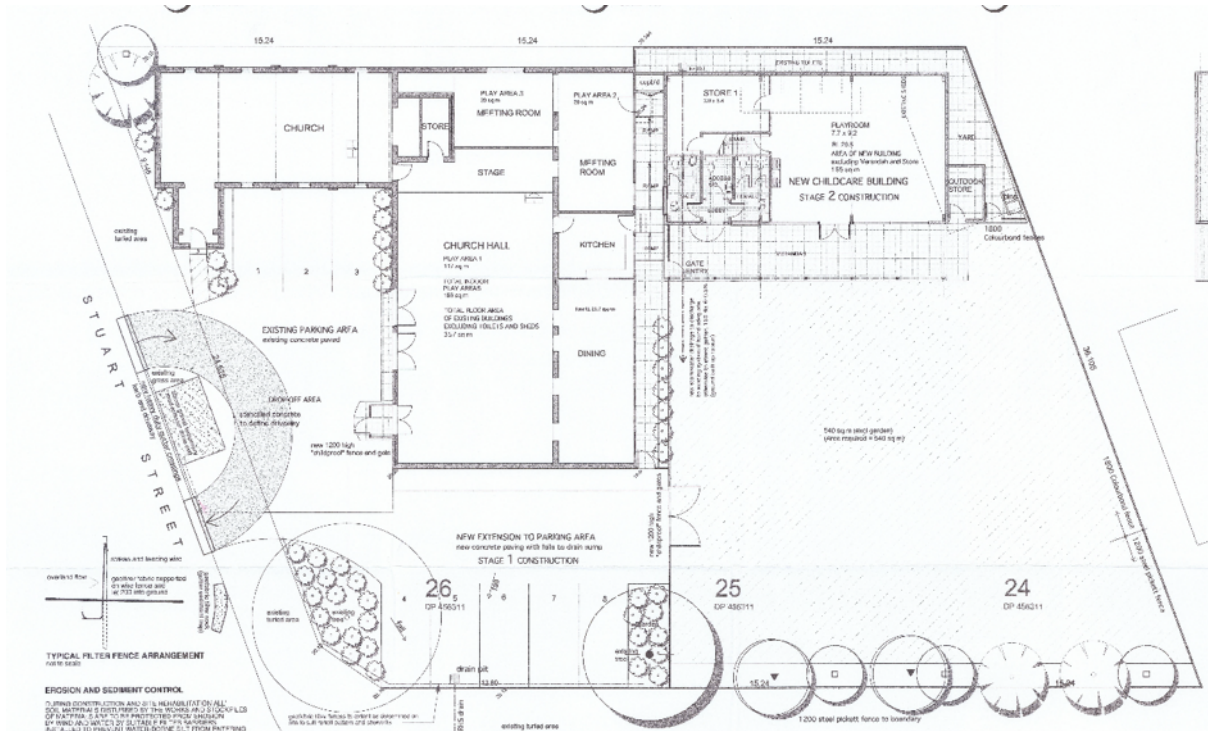


Figure 20: Building Application 03/2034 indicating the location of original church, the 1960s addition and the addition of the childcare centre, 2003 (Source: Penrith City Council)



Figure 21: View to the church and Site from Stuart Street.



Figure 22: View to the front of the church from the adjacent property on Stuart Street.



Figure 23: View to the Church and hall and classroom extension from Stuart Street.



Figure 24: View towards the north elevation of the church hall and classroom through the fence.



Figure 25: View towards the north elevation of the church hall and classroom



Figure 26: View across the Site to the northern adjacent neighbour.



Figure 27: Presentation of eastern wall of the hall and classroom addition.



Figure 28: Presentation of the southern wall of the hall and classroom addition.



Figure 29: Eastern elevation of the church including the later narthex.



Figure 30: View of the hall and classroom addition.



Figure 31: Eastern elevation of the church and southern elevation of the hall and classroom addition.



Figure 32: Concrete forecourt and southern elevation of the hall and classroom addition.



Figure 33: Non-original c.1970s narthex addition to the church.



Figure 34: Western church elevation on the boundary with adjacent neighbour.



Figure 35: Buttresses to western elevation.



Figure 36: Windows to western elevation.

4. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The following summary comparative analysis provides examples of locally heritage-listed churches within the Penrith Local Government Area. Some of the items identified are no longer operational churches. This comparison aims to determine the level of integrity that is valued by the community from a heritage perspective. The comparative analysis is not necessarily undertaken to determine any degree of rarity; however, it can indicate situations where this may be the case.

This analysis considers the integrity of most of the other churches listed in Schedule 5 (Environmental Heritage) of Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010. Whilst this analysis indicates that the subject church is not rare and is modest in scale, it is of comparable integrity to other churches that are deemed to be of at least local significance.

4.2 SUMMARY TABLE OF LOCALLY LISTED CHURCHES

Building	Significance	Listing
Christ Church Anglican Church 230-232 Church Lane, Castlereagh 	Completed in 1878, Christ Church is unique in the area for its age and historical associations with Hadley Park and Nepean Park. The setting for the church demonstrates the continuation of a tradition of Anglican Church mission in the area since the 1810s and provides insight into the early community of the region.	PLEP Local
St Andrews Anglican Church (former) 25 Park Road, Wallacia	The former church is a good representative example of a modest rural weatherboard church which demonstrates growth in the village in the 1920s necessitating provision of community services. The compact scale and resolution of design make the church the	PLEP Local

	most attractive of this type of church in Penrith LGA.	
Methodist Church (former) 74 Henry Street, Penrith 	The building, completed in 1861, is a rare example of an extant mid nineteenth century former Wesleyan Methodist Church in Penrith City which demonstrates the emergence of a town at Penrith and commencement of provision of community services with the opening of the railway link with Sydney. The building is designed in the Gothick Revival style and displays a high level of intactness of original detail.	PLEP Local
Orchard Hills Uniting Church 3 Frogmore Road, Orchard Hills 	The former Mount Hope Methodist Church (now Uniting) completed in 1904 is unique in the local area and represents the principal focus for development of community services for Orchard Hills. The church demonstrates the building of a rural community following farmstead subdivision of the 1880s. The church is the only early extant church in Orchard Hills. It is a good example of a modest rural church of its era.	PLEP Local

St James Anglican Church and Cemetery 3101-3125 The Northern Road, Luddenham 	Completed in 1871, the building demonstrates the development of a village at Luddenham in the late nineteenth century under the benefaction of the local landed gentry to serve the tenant farmers of the estate. The building is an excellent example of a rural church of the mid-nineteenth century retaining a form and detailing which provides insight into this type of building of the era.	PLEP Local
St Mary Magdalene Church, Hall, Cemetery and grounds 299-311 Great Western Highway, St Marys 	The church of St Mary Magdalene, erected between 1837 and 1840, provides unique insight into the Colonial era development of the region with its historic associations with the King family. The church is a fine example of the architecture of Francis Clarke and the whole site continues to function as a focal Christian place of worship for the local community and surrounding districts.	PLEP Local
St Marys Catholic Church 1262 Mulgoa Road, Mulgoa 	The church, completed in 1892, is a good example of a late nineteenth century church in the LGA and demonstrates the development of a village at Mulgoa in the late nineteenth century. The building retains a form and detailing which provides insight into this type of building of the era. Its location within the private village reserve	PLEP Local

	provides insight into the geographic range of the village.	
St Davids Anglican Church 257B Seventh Avenue, Llandilo 	The item is the former Anglican Church of St. David on Seventh Avenue. This timber weatherboard clad church with gabled corrugated iron roof was completed in 1899. A modest rural church the building lacks any architectural pretence in incorporating plain box-framed sash windows. The building is set within the village centre of Llandilo and is a key element of the built historic environment.	PLEP Local
St Pauls Anglican Church and Emu Plains General Cemetery Short, Mundy and Nixon Sts, Emu Plains 	St. Paul's Anglican Church was completed in 1848 and is a landmark in the local area. The site represents a continuum of European site occupation dating to Governor Macquarie. The church is the earliest of the extant churches in Emu Plains and the only example to include a cemetery. It is a good example of its era and its elevated, landscaped setting provides a local landmark that demonstrates the original rural nature of the locality.	PLEP Local
Uniting Church 5-7 Emerald Street, Emu Plains	The modest former Wesleyan Methodist church completed in 1862 demonstrates the emergence of a village community at Emu Plains in the mid-nineteenth century. Its scale and simplicity in detail evokes its original rural setting.	PLEP Local

		
St Phillips Anglican Church 32 Bringelly Road, Kingswood 	St. Phillip's Anglican Church, completed in 1898, is a landmark in the local area and now represents the principal focus for defining the centre of Kingswood. The church demonstrates the onset of village development at Kingswood following suburban subdivision of the 1880s. The church is a good example of a modest church of its era and is the earliest of the extant churches in Kingswood.	PLEP Local
St Thomas Anglican Church and Cemetery 43-57 St Thomas Road, Mulgoa 	The church is unique in New South Wales as the only extant example of a reasonably intact late 1830s Gothic Revival rural parish church which retains its rural setting of the important Fernhill, The Cottage and St Thomas' landscaped nexus and with a documented example of an early church drive possibly forming the entrance to Edward Cox's Fernhill and The Cottage. The church has a direct historical relationship to the Cox family as a private chapel.	PLEP Local

St Stephens Anglican Church, Hall and Cemetery

258-280 High Street, Penrith



This Church is significant because of its excellent representation of early colonial buildings in the Gothic style. It is the 16th oldest surviving Church in NSW and has provided a place for continuous worship since 1839. The Church is a recognised landmark in the Penrith area. The graveyard has historic importance as the oldest cemetery in Penrith township and is of aesthetic significance for demonstrating a wide range of monument types, styles and materials and retains evidence for formal landscaped scheme.

PLEP
Local

5. ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This section considers the heritage significance of the collection of the built elements contained within the properties known as 185 Mulgoa Road, Jamisontown.

5.2 HERITAGE ITEMS IN THE VICINITY

The property is in the vicinity of a heritage item at 56 – 62 Mulgoa Road, Workmen's Cottage. This is listed on Schedule 5 of PLEP as Item 94.

The significance of the **Workmen's Cottage** is as follows:

The terrace on Mulgoa Road demonstrates a phase in the development of the area in the late nineteenth century as an industrial base and is now the only tangible evidence of the early brickmaking of this area. The terrace is a prominent and well-built, albeit partly reconstructed, building which demonstrates purpose built, good quality working class housing of its era. The large scale of the terrace, distinctive design, and proximity to the road provide an item of historic interest on this arterial road.



Figure 37: Location of Site shaded red and nearby heritage item on Mulgoa Road shown in brown.

5.3 NSW HERITAGE CRITERIA

An assessment of cultural significance of the collection of buildings at 185 Mulgoa Road, Jamistown, has been undertaken below against the seven NSW Heritage Criteria. This assessment is based on the historical information available as well as the physical and comparative analysis.

a) Historical Significance

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

The Site, and specifically the United School Church building, has local historical significance for its association with the early development of religion and education in the establishment of Jamisontown and as one of the earliest buildings in the area. To a lesser degree, the 1960s church hall and classroom extension has played a part in the continued use of the site for religious and educational purposes.

b) Historic Associational Significance

An item has strong or special associations with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

The United School Church building retains historic associations as a modest example of the work of William Sykes, a prominent architect in the Penrith area. Sykes designed several significant buildings in the late 19th Century including civic buildings, the Governor Phillip Special Hospital, and the Rooty Hill School of Arts.

c) Aesthetic and/or Technical Significance

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area)

The United School Church building makes a positive contribution to the Stuart Streetscape as a modest landmark with a high degree of integrity. Overall, the church building appears to be highly intact externally, except for where the narthex and hall and classroom addition have been added. Whilst these additions are visually inconsistent with the original church building, it is likely that the overall footprint and form of the original church remains intact underneath.

The hall and classroom addition does not exhibit any specific architectural merit as a standalone educational building rather it presents only as an oversized extension to the smaller church. The ancillary buildings on the Site as well as the c. 2006 boundary fencing make no valuable contribution to its overall significance.

d) Social and/or Cultural Significance

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The United School Church building has retained direct links to the Jamisontown community for over 130 years and since the area was used primarily for farming. The United School Church building has social significance to the local community, for its long-term use as a place for public worship and education and the symbiotic operation of these functions, which were closely related.

e) Research Potential

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's (or the local area's) cultural or natural history

It is not known whether the Site retains any research potential.

f) Rarity

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area).

There is no evidence to suggest that the United School Church building, or wider Site is rare beyond its unique association with the historical development of Jamisontown.

g) Representativeness

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments).

The United School Church building represents a typical, modest scale ecclesiastical and educational building dating from the late 19th Century. Inherent in the name, the United School Building and its hall and classroom addition are representative of the symbiotic operation of religious and educational functions contained within a single precinct. The United School church building is representative of the importance of education in religion, an historic concept that continues in modern society.

5.4 INTEGRITY AND CONDITION

The guidelines for assessing heritage significance do not prescribe how to consider the condition of the elements within the heritage curtilage. However, heritage practitioners usually consider the condition of the fabric within four or five categories.

The key to the condition of each building is explained in the first table.

CONDITION	EXPLANATION
Excellent	The fabric appears to have little deterioration.
Good	The fabric appears to be in good condition with limited deterioration. Some maintenance may be required.
Fair	The fabric is generally of sound condition but likely to require maintenance and repair.
Poor	The fabric may have lost its structural integrity and can be seen in an obvious state of deterioration.
Disrepair	The fabric has become dilapidated and may be partly or wholly irreparable.

A high-level assessment of significance of the elements within the site is provided below.

ELEMENT	GENERAL CONDITION
Church	Good
Hall + Classroom	Good
Ancillary Buildings	Fair
Narthex	Fair
Boundary Fence	Good
Grounds + landscaping	Poor

5.5 GRADING OF BUILT FABRIC

The following tables provide the guiding terminology for, and the high-level and general assessment of, each of the individual built elements within the heritage curtilage.

GRADING	JUSTIFICATION
Exceptional	Rare or outstanding element directly contributing to a place or object's significance.
High	High degree of original fabric. Demonstrates a key element of the place or object's significance. Alterations do not detract from its significance.
Moderate	Altered or modified elements. Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the place or object.
Little	Alterations detract from its significance. Difficult to interpret.
Intrusive	Damaging to the place or object's significance.

ELEMENT	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
Church	High
Hall + Classroom	Little
Ancillary Buildings	Intrusive
Narthex	Intrusive
Boundary Fence	Intrusive
Grounds + landscaping	Little

5.6 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Site, and specifically the United School Church building, has local historical significance for its association with the early development of religion and education in the establishment of Jamisontown and as one of the earliest buildings in the area. To a lesser degree, the 1960s church hall and classroom extension has played a part in the continued use of the site for religious and educational purposes.

The United School Church building retains historic associations as a modest example of the work of William Sykes, a prominent architect in the Penrith area. Sykes designed several significant buildings in the late 19th Century including civic buildings, the Governor Phillip Special Hospital, and the Rooty Hill School of Arts.

The United School Church building makes a positive contribution to the Stuart Streetscape as a modest landmark with a high degree of integrity. Overall, the church building appears to be highly intact externally, except for where the narthex and hall and classroom addition have been added. Whilst the 1960s church hall and classroom extension has played a part in the continued use of the site for religious and educational purposes, the addition itself does not exhibit any specific architectural merit as a standalone educational building rather it presents only as an oversized extension to the church.

The United School Church building has retained direct links to the Jamisontown community for over 130 years and since the area was used primarily for farming. The United School Church building has social significance to the local community, for its long-term use as a place for public worship and education and the symbiotic operation of these functions, which were closely related.

The United School Church building represents a typical, modest scale ecclesiastical and educational building dating from the late 19th Century. Inherent in the name, the United School Building and its hall and classroom addition are representative of the symbiotic operation of religious and educational functions contained within a single precinct. The United School church building is representative of the importance of education in religion, an historic concept that continues in modern society.

6. HERITAGE CURTILAGE REVIEW

6.1 INTRODUCTION

This section has been included to provide some guidance in relation to curtilage of the United School Church at 185 Mulgoa Road. The assessment of significance indicates that whilst the buildings on the Site are clearly an associated collection, in this instance the significance of the site does not extend beyond the United School Church building.

6.2 DISCUSSION

The publication *Heritage Curtilages, prepared by the (former) Heritage Office, Department of Urban Affairs and Planning, 1996* ("publication") has been used as a guide to the determination of an appropriate curtilage for the church at 185 Mulgoa Road.

This publication defines "heritage curtilage" as:

'...the area of land surrounding an item or area of heritage significance, which is essential for retaining and interpreting its heritage significance.' (p3).

The document describes *Lot Boundary, Reduced, Expanded* and *Composite* curtilages. Most relevant to this assessment are the Boundary and Reduced Curtilages.

The Reduced Curtilage generally occurs when other parts of the site are not associated with the significance of the item and arises when *'it is necessary to identify a heritage curtilage which is less than the property boundary but is still sufficient to maintain the heritage significance of the item.'* (p6) It can occur following development and subdivision. In this case, the Reduced Curtilage would technically result in the excising of buildings which have evident historical associations with the church and are located on the same property. This could also lead to compromising the church's setting.

The publication describes a Lot Boundary Curtilage as extending to the boundary of the property containing the heritage item and outlines that this is the most common type of curtilage. The following commentary is provided in relation to Lot Boundary Curtilage: *'The property may also contain associated buildings, gardens and other significant features including walls, fences, driveways, or tennis courts, which contribute to the heritage significance of the property.'* (p5) On this basis, it is recommended that the curtilage of the proposed heritage item be defined by three existing allotments (excluding the northernmost Lot 24 DP 456311) to ensure future development takes into consideration setting of the heritage item.

7. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Based on the available historical and physical evidence, as well as a comparative analysis of similar properties, it is evident that the United School Church building at 185 Mulgoa Road, Jamisontown does meet the threshold for heritage listing at a local level and should be recognised for its significance to the Penrith Local Government Area.

It is therefore suggested that Schedule 5 of PLEP be amended to include:

Suburb	Item Name	Address	Property Description	Significance	Item No.
Jamisontown	United School Church Building	185 Mulgoa Road	Lot 25 and Lot 26 DP 456311, Lot 1 DP 910925.	Local	Item No. TBA

The PLEP heritage map should also be amended to identify the entirety of the three lots described above as the heritage item to recognise the continued association of these remnant lots and to ensure that future development on the site is cognisant of the significance and setting of the Uniting School Church building.

The following comments are made in relation to the proposed heritage item:

- United School Church building is located on the western boundary of the Site in the southern-most corner. If demolished, there would likely be no capacity to build again in this location due to required setbacks, relating to the amenity of the adjacent neighbour and fire requirements.
- The removal of some, or all the later additions, including the narthex, could enable a better interpretation and proper conservation of the modest church building.
- The existing fence should be replaced with an appropriate fence to enhance the presentation of the Site from Mulgoa Road.
- If three of the four allotments of the Site are heritage listed, then Clause 5.10.10 *Conservation Incentives* of PLEP may be invoked, to allow for the appropriate development of the Site whilst facilitating the ongoing conservation of the United School Church building.
- Retention and conservation of the United School Church building would add character and value to any development of the Site.