

SA Heritage Register

Submission form

South Australian
HERITAGE COUNCIL

South Australian Heritage Council

Submission on whether the entry of the Place **Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades)** should be confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register

A place is eligible for entry in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the criteria in Section 16(1) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* (Act). Using the table below, please explain why you believe the place should or should not be entered into the Register, using the said criteria. The South Australian Heritage Council invites your submission regarding the entry of this place. For help in making a submission, please refer to the Guidelines for Interpreting State Heritage Criteria (**Attachment E**) and also available online: [Guidelines-for-Interpreting-State-Heritage-Criteria-2024.pdf](#)

Criteria

Criteria under the <i>Heritage Places Act 1993</i> , section 16(1)	Provide evidence or other information to support your submission
a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history	
b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance	

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<p>c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history</p>	
<p>d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance</p>	<p>"The former Hindmarsh Town Hall is an outstanding example of the class of inter-war cinemas. Moving pictures were a regular form of entertainment in the early part of the twentieth century.</p> <p>In 1936, a combined picture theatre and hall was constructed on Port Road at Hindmarsh on the site of the earlier Hindmarsh District Council; offices, built 1860 and 1880. The reconstruction involved the removal of the stone portico on the Port Road frontage and all of the buildings were refaced in Art Deco style to the design of Chris Smith. The theatre at the Hindmarsh Town Hall continued as a cinema for many years. Although the interior has been altered, the former Council Chamber and adjoining room survive intact and show the 1930s Art Deco refurbishment."</p> <p>Source : [REDACTED], Moving to the Modern- Art Deco in South Australian Architecture. Architecture Museum monograph series, University of South Australia. 2009.</p> <p>Similarly,</p> <p>"In 1936, local architect and theatre design specialist Chris A. Smith was employed by the Town of Hindmarsh to renovate and extend the old Town Hall, adding a cinema theatre behind a seamless modern façade."</p> <p>Source: Pamphlet produced for the Adelaide Chapter of the Art Deco and Modernism Society of Australia entitled Art Deco in South Australian Architecture, [REDACTED], 2018.</p>

<p>e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics</p>	<p>The former Hindmarsh Town Hall exhibits a very high level and standard of features that are now accepted as being typical of the Art Deco period, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -steel lettering on the Parapet on the Port Road elevation -strong vertical emphasis, including via the narrow steel frame windows along both the Port Road and Milner Street facades and the use of decorative incised pilasters. -The rendered Portland cement façade which includes decorative elements referencing Egyptian architecture, such as ziggurats and ferns. -Monumental entrances meant to give a sense of grandeur, as though entering a temple or tomb. -Cantilevered awnings -ashlar terrazzo podium
<p>f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it</p>	
<p>(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance</p>	<p>The former Hindmarsh Town Hall is associated with the work of Christopher Smith, probably the foremost Art Deco architect of the era. In particular specialising in the design of town halls and cinemas.</p> <p>Chris Smith has been recognised as ‘an unusual example of a practitioner whose most prominent work incorporates both purpose-built cinemas and town halls, often in the same building’ (Lewi & Nichols, 2010: 180). Prior to 1930 Smith designed new town halls that could accommodate moving pictures for the regional Top towns of Clare (1925) and Peterborough (1926-27, SHR), and an Institute building at Warradale (Willis 1998). Smith had to weather initial criticism of his plan for the Clare Town Hall, but upon its completion, the toast to the architect and contractor declared that ‘the nightmare</p>

	<p>of those pillars on the footpath has vanished' and he was congratulated on his plan ('Clare New Town Hall' 1925: Smith Collection S334).</p> <p>The Peterborough Town Hall's 'fine and bold frontage' which included five 'spacious modern' shops for lease and housed an auditorium with distinctive plaster decoration. It contained seating that was 'the last word in comfort', a stage and associated facilities, an innovative cooling and ventilation system, provision for the projection of moving pictures and a biograph room, as well as council chambers and offices and a library ('Opening of the new Town Hall at Peterborough', 1927: 3).</p> <p>Both Town Halls are extant and still valued by their communities. From 1935 it was over the next six years that he designed municipal council buildings that have from 1935 onwards featured regularly in <i>Building and Construction</i> and it was over the next six years that he designed municipal council buildings that have all been listed on the South Australian State Heritage Register (SHR). In 1936 the Hindmarsh Council engaged Smith to create a large theatre/hall. The original stone portico was removed, and all the buildings were refaced in Art Deco style. The building, now used by the Department of Education and Children's Services, is acknowledged as 'a remarkable example of civic architecture of the period' (Dallwitz and Marsden 1984) Smith's municipal offices and council chambers, again in Art Deco style, for the Brighton Council were completed in 1937, 'amid controversy and protests by ratepayers at the expenditure of funds' (Dallwitz and Holt 1988)amidst controversy and protests by ratepayers at the expenditure of funds.</p> <p>Source: [REDACTED], 'Smith, Christopher Arthur', Architecture Museum, University of South Australia, 2008/2016, Architects of South Australia: [http://www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au/arch_full.asp?Arch_ID=39]</p>
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Declaration

The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released.

We, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wish to make a written representation regarding the
provisional entry of **Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades)**. The information I
have provided is correct to our knowledge.

- ☒ I **support** the confirmation of this provisional entry.
☐ I **do not support** the confirmation of this provisional entry.

We do not wish to appear personally before the Council to make oral representations.

Signature: _____ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Date: ____24-6-25_____

*Please attach any relevant documents and be aware that a heritage officer may contact you to
discuss your submission.*

Please provide your contact details here:

Phone: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] PLEASE SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO ALL THE
ABOVE EMAIL ADDRESSES.

Address: _____

This form must be received by 5pm on **11 July 2025**.

Please return completed submission form to the

Board and Policy Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Via email: **DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au**

Or via post: **GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001**