

Mitcham Village Chronology



Left: Muggs Hill Road
Mitcham c1882

Brownhill Creek ford is in the foreground.

1840

Mitcham Village laid out by the South Australian Company and named by its Manager, William Giles, after his home in Mitcham, England.

1841

Rev. Ralph Drummond, the first Presbyterian Minister to arrive in South Australia (in 1839), bought Allotment 70 in the Village. Soon after he built a house on the southern side of Brownhill Creek.



Thomas Mugg - Mitcham's first school teacher



Thomas Playford

1844

Pastor Thomas Playford and his family settled in Mitcham. Their home 'Jerusalem' was built facing Old Belair Road in what is now Sutton Gardens. It was demolished in 1942.

1846

Elizabeth Bayley became the first woman to own land in the Village. Her 10 acre (4.05 ha.) Lot, No.1, was one of the three largest of the 102 in the Village and stretched from present day Welbourne Street to Ballogie Avenue, and from Albert Street to Princes Road. The small low cottage she later built was sold to Hannah Gilpin in 1866. It still stands today on the corner of Gilpin Lane and Albert Street (now Lochness Av).

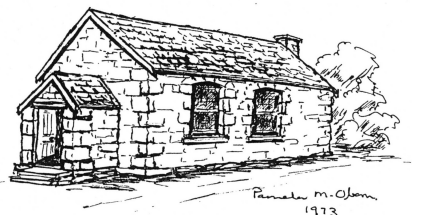
1846

The 'Black Swan Hotel' opened in Evans Avenue opposite the Village Green. The first hotel in Mitcham, it was run by William Dawbiney until it closed in 1850.

1847

The Union Chapel was built facing the creek on the northern side of the Village Green (now Mitcham Reserve). Over the years it was used for services for members of the Independent, Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian sects and as a meeting place, a school for 24 years, and a Sunday School.

Mitcham School opened in the Union Chapel. Thomas Mugg, a former carpenter and joiner, was appointed teacher and held this position for 20 years, teaching reading, writing and arithmetic to students aged three to 14 years. Muggs Hill Road is named after him.



Probable appearance of the
Union Chapel
Sketch by Pamela Oborn

1848

The foundation stone of St Michael's Church was laid by Lady Young, wife of the Governor, Sir Henry Fox Young.

'The Hall', later 'Rust Hall', was the first of many mansions to be built in Mitcham Village. Designed by architect George S Kingston, it was built for Arthur (later Sir Arthur) Blyth, Chairman of the Mitcham Council in 1855 - 56 and three times Premier of South Australia. Fronting Pages, Hoggs and Brownhill Creek Roads, the home was painted white by James Page, a subsequent owner, and for a time became known as 'Whitehall'.

1849

The first Post Office opened in Mitcham Village.

George Prince's home, 'Kallawar', was built near the eastern corner of Albert Street and Muggs Hill Road. Large stone and brick pillars on Albert Street mark the original entrance to this old property, now Scotch College Junior School.



'Haverhill', a large two-storey home, was built for Benjamin Hogg and can still be seen on the corner of Hoggs and Playford Roads.

1850

'Brownhill Creek Inn' was opened in Albert Street by owner and landlord, Henry Taylor who ran it until 1864. Five years later it reopened with a new owner and a new name, 'The Mitcham Hotel'. A second storey was added to the building in 1879 and a Tea & Coffee Garden was opened on the eastern side which continued until 1909. The building is now a private residence.

1852

The first service was held in the Parish Church of St Michael, with His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Fox Young and Lady Young being present.

1853

Mitcham General Store was opened by James and Janet Gardiner on the western corner of Albert and High Streets. Janet Cunningham later inherited the store and ran it from 1889 until her death in about 1940, when it was purchased by Doug Gregory.

Mitcham Cemetery opened.

1855

Mrs Emma Francis began a horse-drawn passenger transport service between Mitcham and Adelaide. This was taken over later in the year by Mrs Kinsman who ran the service three times a week.

1858

A Christian Chapel was built on the southern side of Albert Street on land donated by Pastor Thomas Playford.

The 'Mitcham Library and Mutual Improvement Society' was established. Later it was joined with the South Australian Institute Movement and became the 'Mitcham Institute Association'.

1860

A Bible Christian Chapel was built on part of Rev. Ralph Drummond's land. This was later used by the Salvation Army before, in about 1912, it became a kiosk. It was demolished by the Mitcham Council after 1956 and the site is now part of the W.A. Norman Reserve.



Mrs Kinsman and her 'bus'

1862

Thomas Welbourn, a cooper, and his wife Hannah, settled in Mitcham Village. Welbourne Street was named after him.

1869

The Edinburgh Hotel opened in High Street. Robert Nesbitt was the licensee until 1874.

1870

The Mitcham Institute (now Mitcham Village Institute) was built in Princes Road just beyond the northern boundary of the Village - a joint venture of the Mitcham School Committee and the Mitcham Institute Association. Used by the School until 1879, as the Council Office from 1880 -1908 and by the library until 1966.

The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Dolours opened on the corner of Taylors and St Michael's Roads. During the week the little church was used as a schoolroom by the Sisters of St Joseph. In 1914 a new church was built in Kingswood.



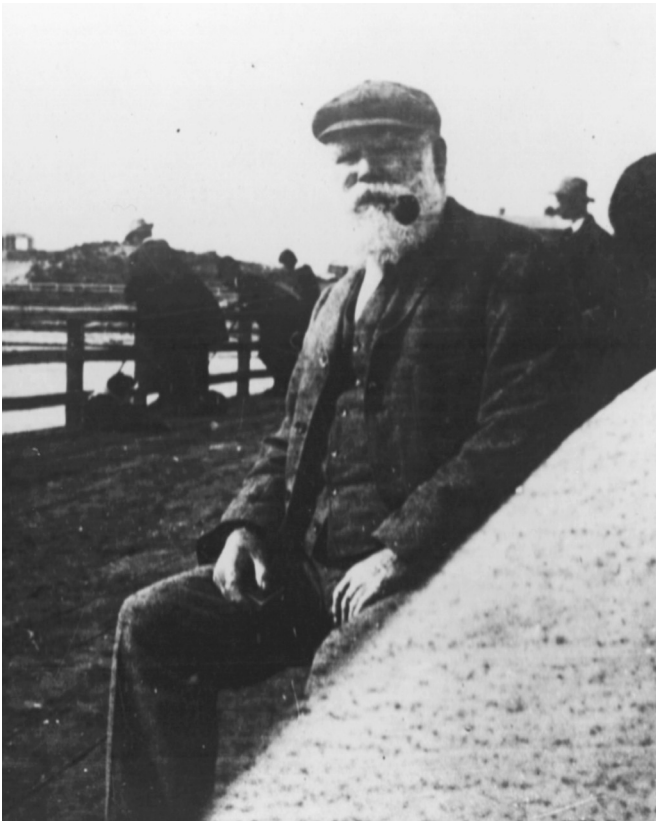
Edinburgh Hotel 1911

1872

A coach house and stables were built on the corner of Maitland and High Streets for Thomas Newey, an omnibus proprietor, who a few years earlier had taken over Mrs Kinsman's passenger service to Adelaide. Newey ran the service seven times per day using his 2 and 4 horse vehicles.

1874

Members of the Christian Chapel in Albert Street joined the South Australian Baptist Association and the little chapel became the Mitcham Baptist Church. Additions and alterations were made to the building in 1908 and 1973.



Thomas Newey



The keystone Bridge
Sketch by Pamela Oborn

1875

A flood washed away the partly-built keystone bridge being constructed by John Prince Jnr over Brownhill Creek. It had to be completely rebuilt and was opened the following year.

1879

The Adelaide, Unley and Mitcham Tramway Company's horse-tram line was laid and stables and a car-barn were built on Princes Road. The horse-trams operated from the City along the Unley Road to Princes Road, then to Welbourne Street and into Albert Street to the line's terminus outside the General Store.

1880

A water supply was piped to the Village from a reservoir constructed in Ellison's Creek (a tributary of Brownhill Creek).

James William Allison, a Chemist and Druggist, opened his shop in Albert Street.

1882

Wesleyan Methodist Church was built on Princes Road.



Mitcham Railway Station c1918

1883

Railway across the district opened.

Mitcham Post Office opened on the corner of Welbourne and Albert Streets by Hannah Fyffe, youngest daughter of Thomas Mugg.

1889

Police Station and residence built on land purchased from the Mitcham Institute.

1894

A lamp was erected at the Mitcham Institute.

Harry S Thwaites, a draper and outfitter, opened Thwaites & Co. in Welbourne Street. This was the beginning of Thwaites Men's Wear later well known for the slogan "Men Swear by Thwaites for Men's Wear".

1897

Brownhill Creek flooded. Two young local residents were drowned, one of whom lived with her husband and small baby in the little cottage by Muggs Hill Road ford.

1898

Gas lamps operating in Mitcham had to be extinguished by 10pm.

1900

The west wing was added to Mitcham Institute.

1901

Telephone was connected to the Mitcham Council office in part of the Institute.

1906

A rotunda was built on the Reserve for the Mitcham Brass Band which had been formed in 1902.

1908

Quarryman and stone-carter Alfred Stone and his wife Annie settled in Mitcham near the corner of Bradey and High Streets. Sadly, Annie died the next year, but for many more years Arthur's trucks loaded with stone from the quarries, and with 'A Stone' painted on their doors, were a common sight on the streets throughout the district and beyond.



Mitcham Institute building before the west wing was added

The Prince family built a new homestead on their 'Kallawar' estate. The original old two-storey home had been badly damaged by the flood in 1897 and an earthquake in 1902.

1911

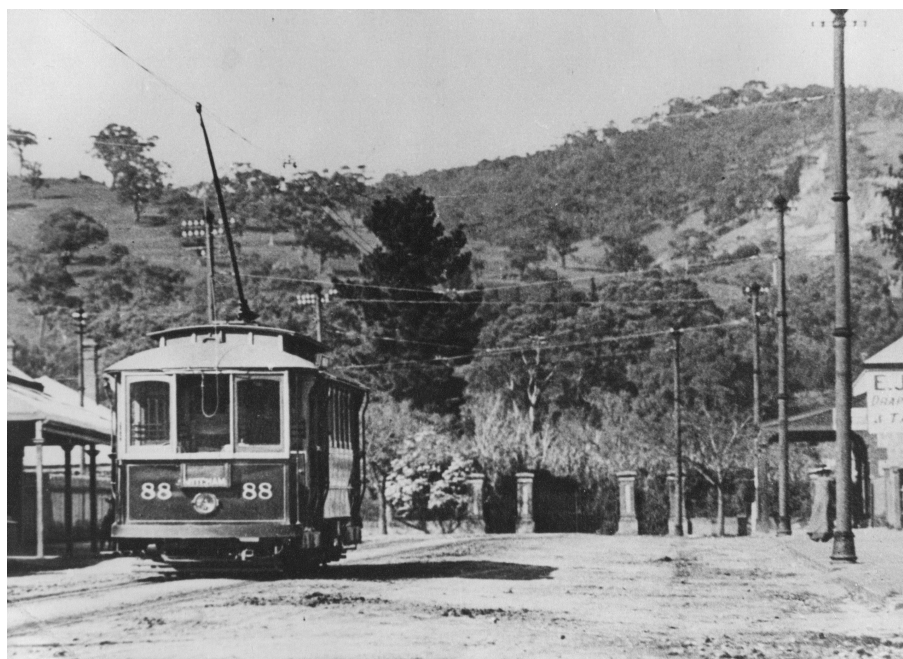
Electric trams began running to Mitcham, the line ending at the same Albert Street terminus as that of the horse-tram service.

1912

Bradey Street was named after William Bradey, a woodcutter and carter, and his wife Caroline (nee Cassie) who had been living in the Village since 1891. Two of their sons were killed in action during World War I.

1914

Elsie Playford, daughter of John and Emily Playford, married butcher, Fritz G Conquest. They lived in 'The Willows' facing Norman Walk, now part of Scotch College Junior School.



Electric Tram in Welbourne Street Mitcham

1916

Mitcham Institute was one of the first buildings in the district to have electricity installed.

1919

Enoch Jeanes, a draper, clothier and boot supplier, opened his business in the Welbourne Street shop earlier used by Harry Thwaites. He remained there until 1938.

1929

The Mitcham Soldiers' Memorial Rotunda was built on the Reserve.

1950

Part of the Prince family 'Kallawar' estate was transferred to Scotch College. The house and remaining land followed in 1963. It is now the Junior School Campus.



1st Torrens Park Scouts in the former Newey's coach stables
1955

1954

The 1st Torrens Park Scout Group bought Thomas Newey's old coach stables, by then being used as a second-hand mart. Opened as the Scout Hall in 1955.

1958

19 July - Last day of the electric tram service to Mitcham.

20 July - First day of the bus service to Mitcham.

1960

Council took over Mitcham Institute building.

1974

Mitcham Village Art and Crafts Association was formed and began operating a gallery and art and craft classes in the 'Old Corner Store'.

1977

Mitcham Historical Society formed as a sub-group within the Mitcham Village Art and Crafts Association.

1978

The Edinburgh Hotel, the Keystone Bridge and the house at 27 Albert Street were listed on the National Estate Register.



Fred Harris serving ice cream in his shop at 35 Albert Street.
The headline reads 'World Hails R[...] Space Feat' - c1960

1984

Mitcham Village Kindergarten moved into No. 35 Albert Street, Harris's House Community Centre, but at that time still better remembered as the old home and greengrocery shop of three generations of the Harris family.

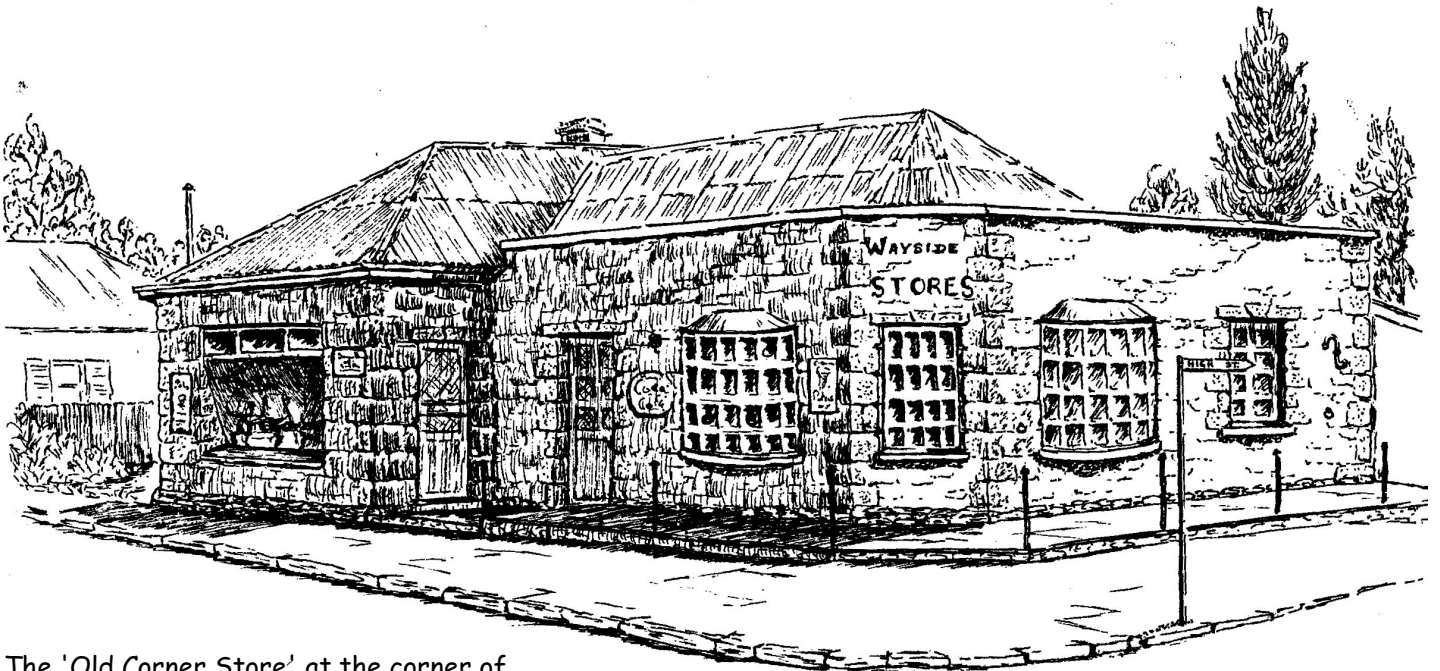
1986

During this, South Australia's sesquicentenary year, the Mitcham Historical Society arranged a reunion for 'Old Mitchamites'. The event was held in Sutton Gardens and brought together nearly 500 former residents who had been born before 1936 and had spent at least some of their childhood within hearing of the St Michael's Church bell.

1988

As part of Mitcham's Australian Bicentenary celebrations, a time capsule to be opened in 2053 was buried in Sutton Gardens. Nearby, plaques were set into low walls. These outline the history of the district, commemorate some of its pioneers and prominent people and list all Chairmen, Mayors and District and Town Clerks of Mitcham Council.

Part of the village registered on the National Estate of Australia.



The 'Old Corner Store' at the corner of Albert and High Streets now The Edinburgh Cellars. *Sketch by Pamela Oborn*

1991

27 February - An arson attack completely gutted the Mitcham Village Arts & Crafts Association premises on the western corner of Albert and High Streets.

8 December - The Edinburgh Cellars opened for business in the rebuilt and restored old corner store just over 9 months after the fire.

1993

Restoration of the Mitcham Institute was carried out and new premises, adjoining the Institute, were built for the Mitcham Village Art and Crafts Association.

1995

New rotunda built in the Memorial Reserve.

1997

Mitcham Village declared a Heritage Conservation Zone. A core area of the village gazetted as an Historic (Conservation) Zone under the City of Mitcham Development Plan.

2002

Parishioners of St Michael's Anglican Church celebrated its 150th anniversary.



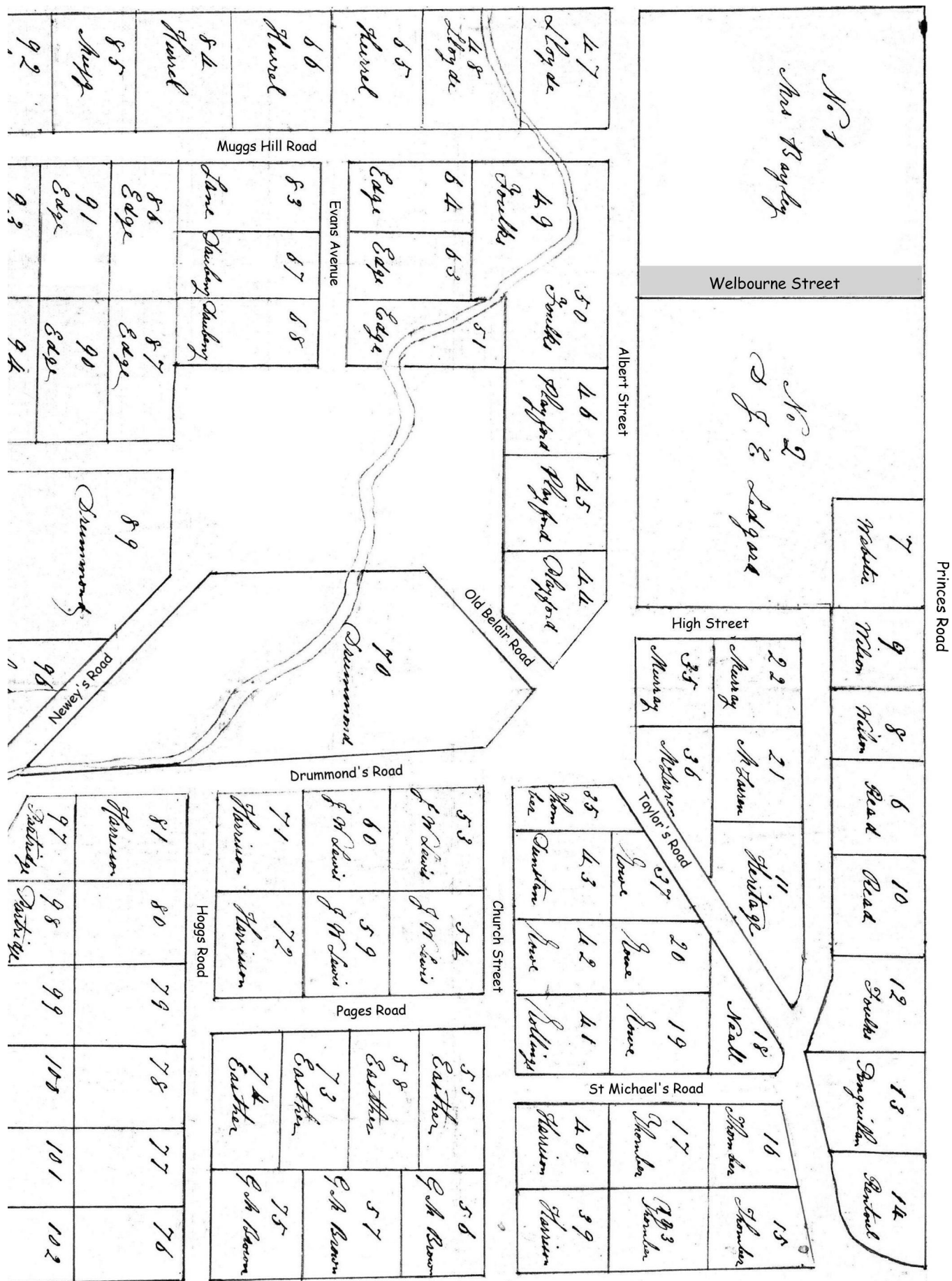
Gregory's Store and Monumental Masons at 39 Albert Street in 1925. Assistant Mr Wallace is standing by the door.



Rev. Drummonds house, later owned by Thomas Newey. Built 1843 and demolished 1955.



Baptist Church group - c1900



Mitcham Village map - early 1840s (street names added)

North



Prepared by Mitcham Local History Service and Heritage Research Centre,
103b Princes Rd, Mitcham, SA 5062
Ph: 8372 8261

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