

# St Jude's Church: a little bit of old England preserved

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The NSW Heritage Council issued a permanent conservation order yesterday on St Jude's Church of England, Randwick, and all buildings and land owned by the church.

St Jude's, designed by Edmund Blacket and built in 1865, is a replica of St John's, in Randwick, Gloucestershire.

The church parish council had offered a site for sale for home unit development.

Local residents objected. About three weeks ago they lodged an application with the Heritage Council for a conservation order on the precinct.

Yesterday, while residents were getting their public protest move under way, news was received that the council had acted almost immediately.

The church is the centrepiece of one of Sydney's most historic precincts.

Beside the church and in its grounds are six buildings and a cemetery.

It is a little bit of old England in the heart of high density Randwick.

The first mayor of the municipality, Simeon Pearce, developed it to recreate the atmosphere of Randwick village, Gloucestershire.

Among the buildings in the



St Jude's Church with the old borough chambers on the right. Home units would have been built behind the church.

precinct are the 1870 St Jude's rectory, the 1862 borough chambers, the meeting hall of the first municipal council in Sydney, the 1897 post office and the Avonmore terrace of houses, one of the finest Italianate terraces in Sydney.

The cemetery behind the church is said to be the only English-style churchyard in the Eastern Suburbs.

It contains the graves of many early Sydney leaders including Henry Mort, Charles D'arcy Wentworth and Simeon Pearce.