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Mission doomed

THE historic Missions to Seamen Hall at Outer Harbor is likely to be demolished.

Heritage SA is calling for public comment about its plan to remove the building from the State Heritage Register.

The register provides the hall protection from demolition.

Heritage SA principal heritage officer Brian Samuels said the building, built in 1928, was in poor condition and would cost owners Flinders Ports too much to restore.

Mr Samuels said if it was struck from the register its owner, Flinders Ports, could demolish it.

``It's been declining for some years and they had no use for it," Mr Samuels said.

``There's no possibility of them using it in the foreseeable future, it's now become structurally unsound and it would require significant funds to make it safe."

The proposal has upset Semaphore resident Heather Hartshorne who has written a book on the hall called *The Flying Angel*.

``It's like a blow upon a bruise," Mrs Hartshorne said, looking at the dilapidated building on Oliver Rogers Rd.

``It's significant because it represents an era that was terrifically busy but now it's all gone. The building has terrific architectural merit.

``I think we're setting a very bad precedent when we knock something down and say it's not useful, because there are other uses . . . I would like to see them preserve even the ruins."

Mrs Hartshorne, a member of the Port Adelaide Historical Society, said the hall was built on land leased from the Harbours Board by Frederick Lakeman for the Anglican Church.

It was built to provide a church for visiting sailors at Outer Harbor, but later increased its services to host slide nights, a billiards room and dances.

The land on which the hall stood was leased by the Anglicans, who used the hall as an Aboriginal Heritage Museum until 1971, when it was left vacant.

A fire in 1992 destroyed much of the building and what is now left is a shell without roof or floors.

Heritage SA also proposes to add buildings at Hart's Mill, near Munday St, Port Adelaide, to the State Heritage Register, in light of plans around the mill for the \$1.2 billion Port Adelaide Waterfront Redevelopment.

Public submissions about the Heritage Register changes can be made by writing to the Secretary, State Heritage Authority, GPO Box 1047, Adelaide. Submissions close March 12. Details: 8124 4960.