

CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS (Former Training School and Adelaide Girls High School)

113 Grote Street

This building was erected as a teachers' training school. In his annual report as director of education in 1874, J.A. Hartley stated that urgent requirements were for ' . . . substantial and commodious schoolhouses, with proper furniture and apparatus; and a supply of teachers. A year later he added, 'We look forward to the establishment of the Training Institution for the benefit of such persons'.

In 1874 the Central Board of Education invited Edward John Woods to submit plans for a training school as he had satisfactorily designed the Model School, alongside, in 1872. Some comments were made in parliament, Mr Rowland Rees stating that if no public design competition was to be held, the work at least should be undertaken by the government architect's office. E.J. Woods was then in private practice and did not become colonial architect until 1878. Brown & Thompson's tender for the sum of £3213 was accepted and work proceeded in 1875.

There was a large lecture hall with its walls rounded off at the corners so as to make it suitable for sound. There was also an apparatus room, a library and a reading room, a museum for educational appliances, a practising schoolroom for seventy-five children, two classrooms, principal's room, a waiting room, and a private room for female students. Passages were floored with slate, the floors of the rooms with wood and the roofing was also of slate. The walls were bluestone. The front elevation featured an entrance porch built up in a tall gable of stone. The style was 'Florentine Gothic', with the fanlights of the arched windows separated from the tall main windows by a stone transom. More stone masonry was used than in the Model School where brick ornaments were predominant. The plan also differed considerably from the Model School design:

The size, co-ordination and character of rooms, established a new standard for a tertiary educational system. The focal point was the lecture hall with its stepped floor and the raised platform for the pulpit which was backed with carved panelling.

The Compulsory Education Act was passed in 1875 as construction proceeded. The Training School was opened without ceremony on 8 June 1876. L.G. Madley of the Model School was appointed principal.

In 1908 the Model School and the Training School complex were amalgamated as the new Adelaide Continuation School with the Advanced School for Girls. All three buildings then became Adelaide High School which was opened on 24 September 1908.

The central building of Adelaide High School, which was the old Training School, was completely remodelled. In 1909 the one storey Gothic style school was cleverly transformed into a two storeyed Tudor style building by the superintendent of Public Buildings, Charles Edward Owen Smyth. Owen Smyth's new storey was carried out in brick by J.J. Ashman so that now the ground floor was built in bluestone and the first floor built in brick. Walls were

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rendered to harmonise both floors. Owen Smyth's designs were put into effect to ingeniously transform the Gothic style into Tudor by grafting on to the building castellations and Tudor styled bay windows and other suitable adornments. A new staircase was built to connect the two floors by using the original waiting room to the west of the entrance hall.

The transformation demonstrated Owen Smyth's confident mastery of the architectural skills that were needed to totally disguise one building to create another and fool all but the informed. At the rear the original masonry can still be seen as the ground floor was left unrendered.

This is one of a group of major significance in the educational history of the state. The buildings are a monument to early Adelaide education at a time when education was compulsory but not free. The Training School was built just as compulsory education was enacted.

In 1979 the three buildings then occupied by Adelaide Girls' High School were taken over by the Department of Further Education and the Multicultural Education Centre. Adelaide High School became coeducational, the girls moving to the boys' high school on West Terrace. Thus ended over a hundred years of primary and secondary education in Grote Street.

ACA, Smith Survey 1880; Adelaide High School, *75th anniversary souvenir book*, 1983, p. 4.; Department of Housing and Construction Plan Room, HD 815-44; Menzies, H., Adelaide Girls High School closes and century of education ends' in *South Australian Teachers journal* 7 March 1979, p. 21; MLSA, Bierbaum files, Historical photographs (Town Acre329-330); PRO GRG 38/68; *Register*, 8 June 1926; SAPD, 18 August 1875, col.774; SAPP No.24 1874, *Report of Education Board*, pp.7-9, No.26, 1875, *Report of Education Board*, pp.4-5, No. 61 1876 p-3.; *South Australian Register*, 12 January 1876; Thiele, C., *Grains of mustard seed*, 1975, p.84.

The text in this Information Sheet was copied from the **Heritage of the City of Adelaide: An Illustrated Guide**, (1996). The photographs contained in this Information Sheet are a selection of those held by Heritage Services, in digital format.

The property described in this Information Sheet is included in the Register of State Heritage places. A heritage listing does not mean or imply right of access by the public to such properties.

The heritage related Principles of Development Control as well as the Precinct specific objectives and Principles of Development Control are contained in the Adelaide (City) Development Plan. These should be referred to in whole when contemplating any development.

Further information on the Heritage Incentives Scheme, an initiative of Council to sponsor timely and appropriate conservation action is available upon request of the Customer Service Centre.



CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA - CENTRE FOR PERFORMING ARTS (Former ADELAIDE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL	Building No 10/2003-1
Address	101-139 Grote Street	NUA 0330/1*

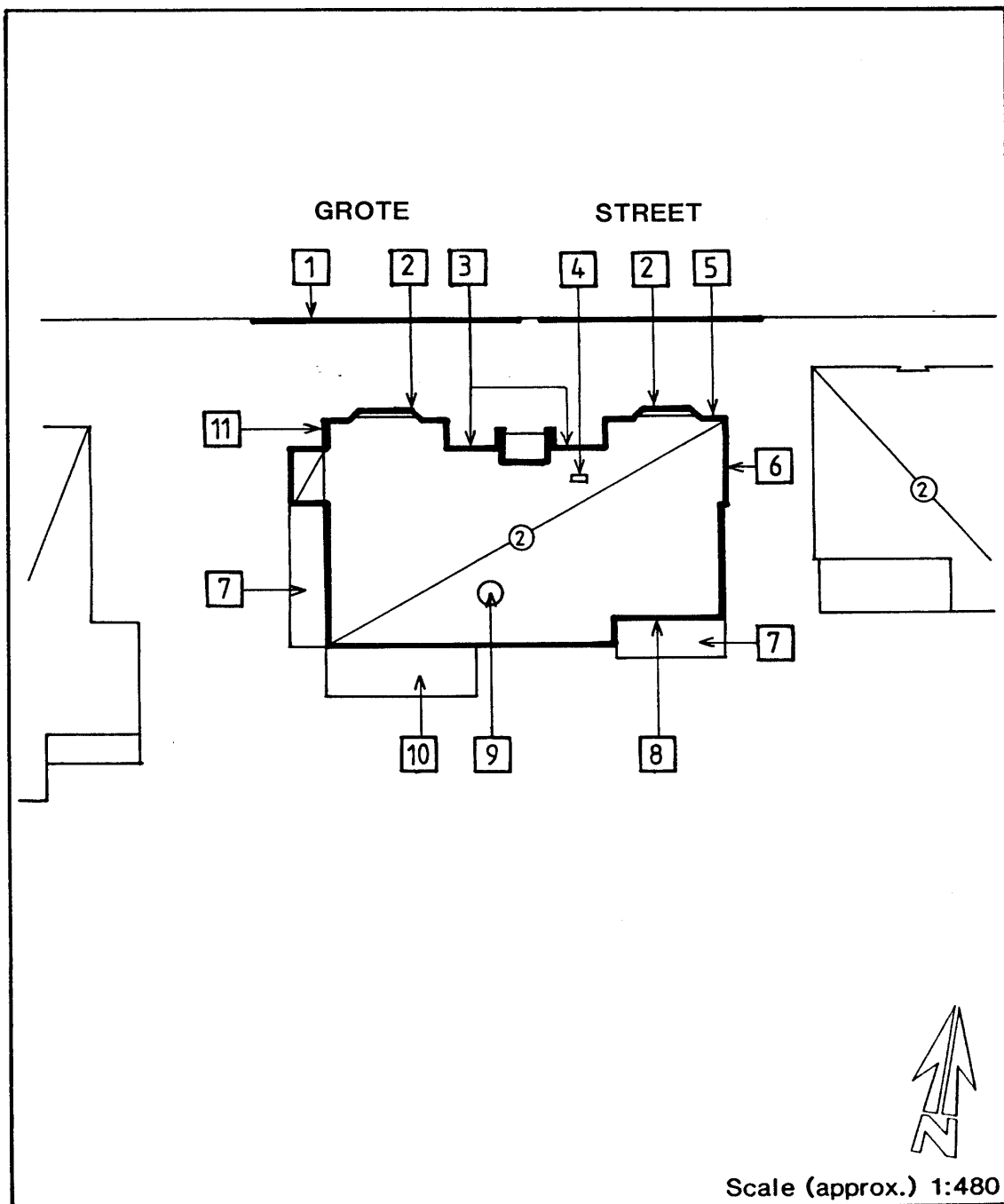


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NOTES:

1. Cast iron and rendered masonry fence.
2. Oriel windows with "Battlement" parapet.
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4. Note stuccoed chimneys.
5. Note leadlight windows and tracery at first floor level.
6. Moulded string courses.
7. Verandah.
8. Coursed random bluestone with red brick quoins.
9. Cupola.
10. Stairs.
11. Gothic style building rendered with raised quoins at ground level and roughly rendered finish at first floor level.

* (Conservation site comprises that part of the above NUA reference to a depth of half Town Acre 330 from the Grote Street alignment.)