

ST STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

152-160 Wakefield Street

St Stephen's Lutheran Church is of historical significance as one of the homes of the Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Adelaide. The other is the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Flinders Street.

The original congregation of this church was formed in 1848 when a group of German Lutherans from the province of Hanover migrated to South Australia. However, the established Lutheran congregation in South Australia set up by Pastor A.L.C. Kavel in 1838 would not accept the new migrants into its realm because they would not renounce their doctrinal views on Holy Communion as held by the Union Church of Germany. The new group chose a spiritual leader from within their own ranks, Friedrich Borgelt, who was inducted in 1848 and served until he died in 1856. Under the second pastor, Johann Christian Maschmedt, who served for thirty-four years, the small congregation suffered a serious internal division when in 1860 Maschmedt revised their Breslauer hymn book. The revision itself did not upset the congregation, but rather the new preface in which Maschmedt mounted an attack against those who preferred the Copernican theory to Creationist views. More than forty members of the congregation seceded as a result and were denied the use of the usual place of worship at the Bible Christian Chapel.

The remaining congregation decided to build its own place of worship and by March 1862 a tiny church was constructed in Pirie Street. When Pastor Maschmedt died in 1891 the congregation had to join the Immanuel Synod on the original basis as St Stephen's was not affiliated with any organised synod and no pastor in Germany could be found to succeed Maschmedt. Pastor Hegelau next served the congregation, then Dr E.J. Eitel who was inducted in 1897. Soon the congregation increased so dramatically it became necessary to consider a larger church. At that time ' . . . an attempt to unite with the Bethlehem Congregation in Flinders Street, belonging to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia, proved unsuccessful'.

Until Dr E.J. Eitel's pastorship, all services were in German. He introduced the occasional service in English as did Pastor Basedow after him. During that suspicious era of the Second World War, from 1 July 1940, however, all services were conducted in English. All Lutheran schisms were closed in 1966, and St Stephen's remains as one of the State's principal Lutheran churches.

The church itself was constructed in 1899-1900 as a replacement for the small church in Pirie Street. The present block of land in Wakefield Street was bought in 1899. The foundation stone of the new church was laid by Chief Justice Sir Samuel Way in October and it was completed for its dedication on 11 February 1900. Costing approximately £1700 for the building and furniture, it comfortably seated 300. The architects were Williams and Good, and the contractor was G. Kleingunther.

The building has the cruciform floor plan typical of church architecture of the Gothic Revival. Quality detail such as finials and tracery is restricted mainly to the facade, and the interior is

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austere. The building is a simple structure, enhanced by the octagonal fleche at the crossing point of transepts.

Together with the adjacent hall and associated trees, the church group makes a positive contribution to the streetscape.

ACA, BSO index; Cobb, J., & Johnson, B., 'Lutheran Church' in D. Langmead (ed), *Creed and architecture*, 1970, p. 86; Keller, G.A., *St. Stephen's congregation of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia: a centenary history*, 1962, pp. 8-11; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 296).

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 a place of Local Heritage (City Significance). 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.

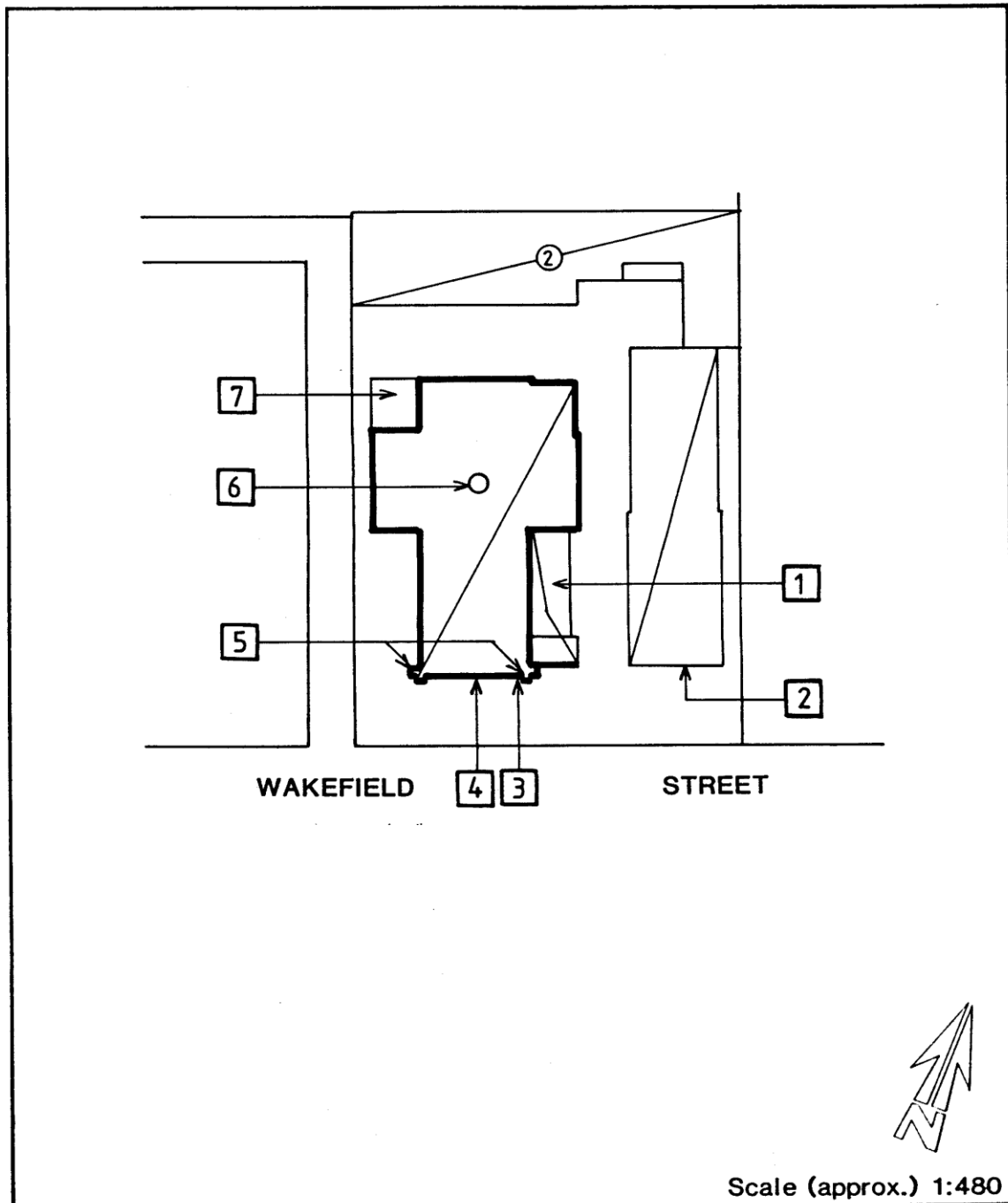


CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH	Building No 12/0207-1
Address	152-160 Wakefield Street	CT 606/15



Scale (approx.) 1:480

Image scanned - not to stated scale.

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NOTES:

1. Addition.
2. Sandstone facade complementary to heritage item.
3. Squared hammered sandstone with brick quoins and bluestone plinth.
4. Note leadlight windows.
5. Turrets.
6. Spire with metal roof and finial.
7. Corrugated iron addition.