

## ST ANN'S COLLEGE BUILDINGS

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**Address:** 190-195 Brougham Place  
**Certificate of Title:** 5772/994; 5787/644;

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**Use:** Residential  
**Stanley West  
Policy Area:** PA10  
**North Adelaide Historic (Conservation) Zone**

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**Heritage Status:** LHP  
**Other Assessments:** Townscape Initiative 1993  
**Conservation Reports:** Nil

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### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION:

St Ann's is a residential college, initially affiliated with the University of Adelaide. The earliest college buildings, which front Brougham Place were formerly two large houses. The residential college was established in the late 1940s in the substantial home that was built on a half acre block (Town Acre 1026) for James Harrington in 1863. Adjoining the Congregational Church, the large two storey bluestone dwelling with sub-basement was sometimes a rental home for the clergy of that church. During this early period it was known as *Lordello*. Several well-to-do families lived here but when Edwyn Walton Hayward bought the property in 1921, he made substantial additions between 1919 and 1921. In this time the annual rateable value rose from £150 to £200.

Shortly after Sir Frank and Deborah Moulden bought the property in 1929, further additions were undertaken and they named their residence *Moulden Court*. The building work undertaken by CH Martin Ltd was estimated to cost £4575. The additions and remodelling of the dwelling suggest a classical style which was popular in this period. After completion, the annual rateable value was more than doubled when it rose to £450, However, this was reduced to £374 by November 1930.

After Sir Frank's death in 1932 Deborah Moulden married Sir Basil R Bullen Murphy in June 1936 and moved to Melbourne. She retained the property until February 1947, when it was sold to St Ann's College for £8000 to create further accommodation for women university students. The residence was given the new name of *Plummer Hall* which was named after Violet Plummer, who was the first woman doctor to practise in Adelaide.

The original 1927 Spanish Mission style building that comprises part of St Ann's College, was a substantial two storey residence built for successful Adelaide merchant and pastoralist, Sidney Wilcox. The application for its construction was made by prominent builders Emmett & Sons who estimated that it would cost £14,500 to build.

The construction of this dwelling, believed to be designed by McMichael and Harris, was in the context of a massive interwar building boom when many prominent financial institutions were built in the main thoroughfares of Adelaide. Reflecting this affluent period, several large homes were built in North Adelaide for the well-to do, while few if any were built in the main part of the city or North Adelaide for workers. This property was part of a bequest by Sidney Wilcox who left it in his will after his death in 1942 with the proviso that the women's university college, first proposed in the late 1930s, should be named in honour of his mother Ann Wilcox.

St Ann's College which first opened 16 March 1947 to its first sixteen students in residence, was incorporated 'to establish and maintain a residential college where members...may obtain educational cultural social and recreational advantages and facilities and opportunities for research'. Its first principal was New Zealander, Dr Mary Harding between 1947 and 1952.

Between the 1960s and 1970s, substantial additions and alterations to the college buildings were undertaken by prominent architects McMichael & Harris.

**ST ANN'S COLLEGE BUILDINGS, 190-195 Brougham Place (cont)**

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**STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE:**

This complex of mid 1920s and 1960s buildings represents the establishment and historical development of a university residential college, evolving from substantial former dwellings constructed during boom periods of housing development in North Adelaide.

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**RELEVANT CRITERIA (under Section 23(4) of the *Development Act, 1993*):**

- (a) These houses displays historical and social themes that are of importance to North Adelaide as it reflects the conversion of large mansions to other uses, in this case the establishment in the 1940s of a residential college for women students at Adelaide University.
  - (b) These houses represent customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area as student residential colleges have been located in this section of North Adelaide from the early years of the University's development.
  - (c) These houses have played an important part in the lives of local residents as the term time home of a substantial number of students.
  - (d) The houses display aesthetic merit and design characteristics of significance to North Adelaide as they represent two periods of boom periods of housing development in North Adelaide.
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**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

Original external form, materials and details of the two houses which form the front section of St Ann's College. Later extensions and additions do not form part of the listing.

**NOTE:** The 'Description of Place and Elements of Heritage Value' listed in the Adelaide (City) Development Plan for this property is as follows:

St Ann's College Buildings  
Two storey modified Victorian residences

This is the legally recognised listing and should be used for the purposes of development application assessment

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**REFERENCES**

- ACC Building Surveyors Dept - Return of Plans August 1929.
- ACC Building Plans 1967-1977.
- ACC Rate Assessments 1861-1935
- Smith Survey 1880
- *Advertiser*, 2/2/1942, p8
- LTO CTs 905/13, 1253/40, 5772/994, 158/207, 1606/86, 4067/255, 4080/156, 5787/644.
- Pauline Payne, *St Ann's College, The First Fifty Years 1947-1997*, 1998, pp 5-16, 17-43.



The 1927 residence

**ST ANN'S COLLEGE BUILDINGS, 190-195 Brougham Place (cont)**

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SLSA - B10678 - 1872



SLSA - B5719 - 1930



SLSA - B5797 - 1930