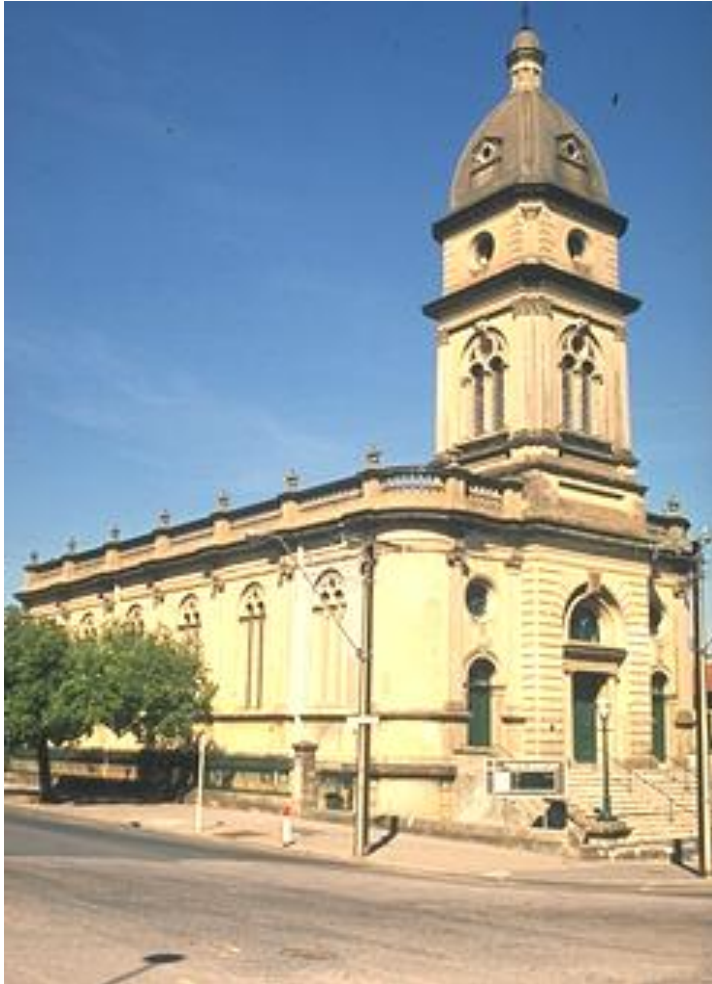


UNITING CHURCH (Former Congregational Church)

196-210 Brougham Place



The former Brougham Place Congregational Church, once described as a 'resort for enquiring minds' is one of the most substantial buildings erected in South Australia as a place of worship for a non-conformist denomination. It is directly associated with the migration of non-conformists and evokes the well-known description of South Australia as a 'Paradise of Dissent'. The achievements of the religious dissenters, their capital wealth and their influence reached its zenith with the erection of this church.

The prominent Congregational minister, Reverend T.Q. Stow long held a desire to establish in North Adelaide a Congregational church fellowship. He selected the present site and established a building committee. Reverend Dr J. Jefferis was invited to the new pastorate, arriving in Adelaide with his wife in

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1859. A hall in Tynte Street was used for worship from the following month and the church was then officially established in North Adelaide. Later that same year a competition for the design of the new church was won by Edmund Wright in partnership with E.A. Hamilton. The building was then described as Greco-Italian in style to be constructed of bluestone from Dry Creek or Glen Osmond.

On 15 May 1860 the foundation stone (taken from the bed of the River Torrens) was laid. The church design was at this time described as Venetian Ionic in style. The builders were Scott and Opie, and the clerk of works was Thomas Frost who later became an architect of some note. On 22 February 1861 an incomplete church was opened with Reverend Stow giving the sermon. The structure, which excluded the lecture hall to the east and tower, was subject to a good deal of adverse criticism due to the 'unfashionable' appearance of its stuccoed wall surfaces.

During the 1860s the church became a resort for ' . . . enquiring minds professing different creeds or having no settled belief'. Episcopalians, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists, Roman

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

Catholics and Jews joined in worship in response to the progressive theology taught under the Reverend Dr J. Jefferis, where ' . . . science and philosophy were looked upon as handmaids to religion'.

In 1871 E.A. Hamilton submitted a design for a tower to be 107 feet in height. The main body of the church then reached its present form with additional major works to the basement and stables together with railings to the Brougham Place frontages. In 1878 Thomas Frost was commissioned to plan a lecture hall, classrooms and organ gallery, although apparently this work was not completed until after 1880.

The church remains one of the most prominent townscape features of Adelaide and the tower is a landmark in lower North Adelaide in particular. The window openings which display a strong Venetian influence are contained within pilastered wall surfaces which are robustly detailed with heavy string courses and set below a bracketed entablature with balustraded parapet topped with urns. The composition is an unusual one, evocative of Baroque designs due to the unconventional treatment of detail. This Classical style building is usefully contrasted with the Gothic style of St Peter's Anglican cathedral. The different styles typically reflect the respective non-conformist and conformist religions' traditions and demonstrate in built form something of the nature of religious dissent in South Australia.

ACA, Smith Survey 1880;
MLSA, Historical
photographs (Town Acre
1026); *Register*,
8 September 1923; *South
Australian Register*, 16 May
1860, 23 February 1861, 25
February 1861, 10
September 1863, 4 January
1872, 15 July 1872.

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.



(CD Ref 1721/57)

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 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.

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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	UNITING CHURCH (former CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH)	Building No 36/2001-1
Address	196-210 Brougham Place, North Adelaide	CT 4072/426

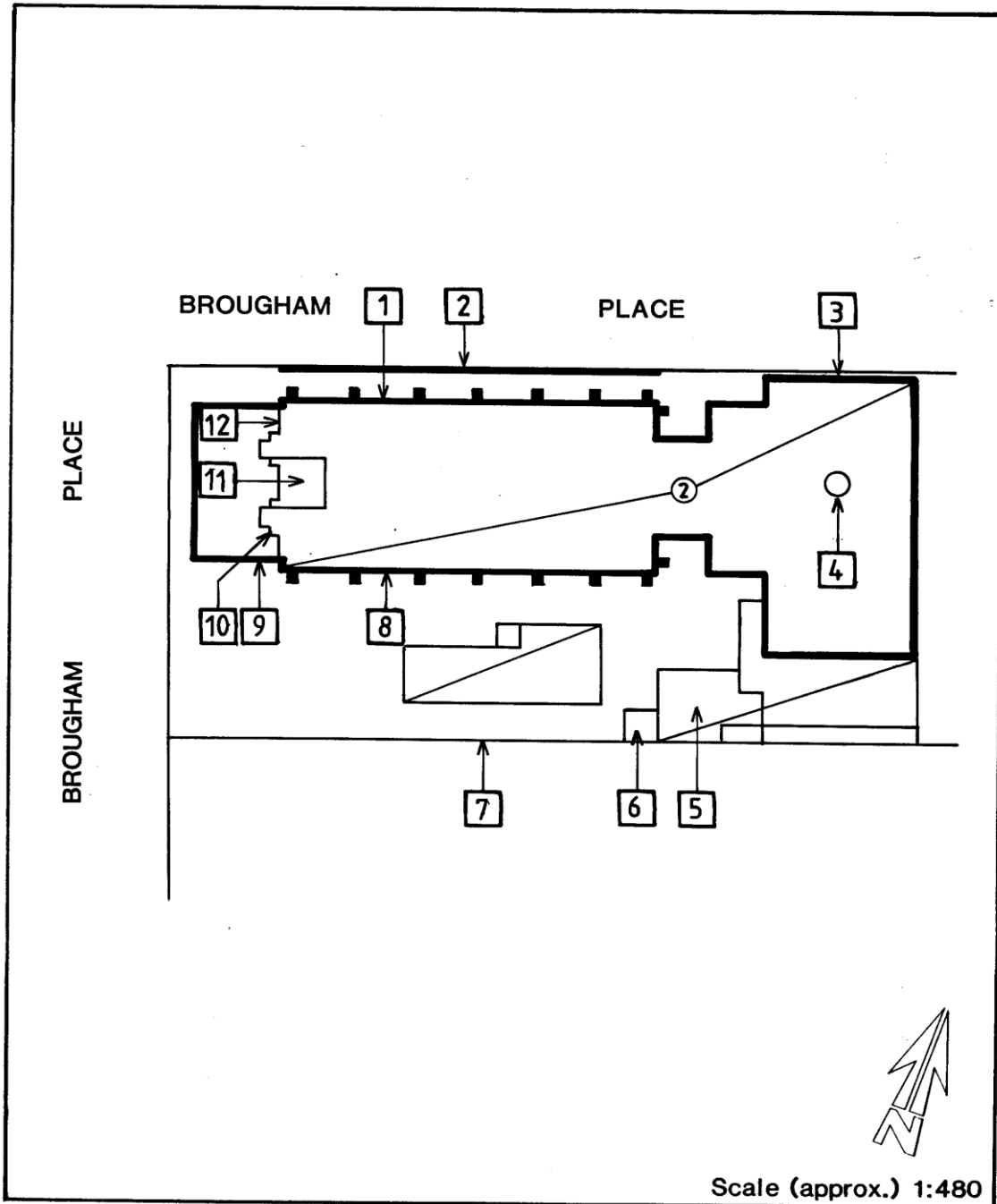


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NOTES:

1. Note Engaged columns and leadlight windows.
2. Cast iron and rendered masonry fence.
3. Coursed, squared sandstone with stucco enrichment.
4. Note Cupola.
5. Limestone rubble with stucco quoins.
6. Carport.
7. Limestone rubble wall with bluestone plinth.
8. Note Balustraded parapet with urns over substantial entablature.
9. Include marble steps and lamps in curtilage.
10. Note Pilasters.
11. Note Tower.
12. Rendered facade with rustication and extensive enrichment.