

FORMER EBENEZER CHAPEL

21-29 Brougham Court

Ebenezer Chapel was erected in 1843 and is of great historical significance as the first purpose built Baptist church in South Australia.

The Baptists in the early years of the colony were greatly divided, debates on minor points of theology, correct terms of church membership, and personality clashes hampered the 'spread of evangelism'. The congregation of this chapel subscribed to open membership and were quite separate from the closed membership church formed in Mr Finlayson's house in Hindley Street in 1838.



(CD Ref 1215/34)

Ebenezer Chapel is constructed of brick and the foundation stone was laid on 17 April 1843. The *South Australian Register*, 19 April 1843 briefly described the building as 30 feet by 18 feet, constructed ' . . . in the plainest style consistent with accommodation and neatness'.

The chapel was opened on 19 November 1843, the ministers James Allen, T.Q. Stow, and R. Drummond all preaching on that occasion. Most of the congregation came from Shortwood in Gloucestershire. The building could seat 150 and was considered neat and elegant. The cost of construction was £160, ' . . . but this was greatly lessened by the gratuitous superintendence of the work by Mr Jones, the builder, and by various contributions of materials of one kind or other'. James Allen remained in charge of Ebenezer Chapel, apart from a brief return to England, until 1855. From 1856 to 1866 George Prince accepted the pastorate and the chapel prospered. A larger chapel was erected

in 1859 facing Brougham Place. During the 1860s the old chapel was used as a schoolroom for working-class boys of the lower North Adelaide neighbourhood. Master builder Walter Charles Torode described his childhood in this area in a memoir written in 1930-31. In the 1860s and 1870s, he recalled, those in North Adelaide who had money sent their sons to Whinham's, Moore's, St Peter's College later, or to the cheaper private schools. His parents' circumstances allowed Torode only a short school education, for he had to work from ten years of age, so he went to Smith's School:

The schoolroom was a Red Brick Building, the size about 30 x 20 two gable ends . . . The attendance was about 40 young boys. Mr. Smith, schoolmaster, was about 40 years of age . . .

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and wore a beard. He did not forget to use the cane when necessary. The fees I think were 1/- per week at any rate very moderate . . . Some boys like myself in due course at an early age, learnt some trade. Some became proficient workmen. Apart from arithmetic and ordinary lessons we had no other problems . . . I never was keen on school work. My mind was on work of a practical kind.

By 1870 the congregation had declined and the chapel was closed in that year. The property was subsequently taken over by the Industrial School for the Blind. In the 1930s the old chapel was remodelled and converted for use as a dwelling.

The chapel is a noteworthy early example of colonial architecture. Stout and utilitarian, its simplicity sprang from the doctrinal beliefs of the congregation. The building is rendered but retains the basic chapel form, its scale reinforcing the residential nature of Brougham Court (formerly known as Chapel Street and Bower Street).

ACA, Assessments 1854, Smith Survey, field book; Hughes, H.E., *Our first hundred years: the Baptist Church of South Australia*, 1937; MLSA, D3232 (L) pp. 2-3, Historical photographs (Town Acre 726); *South Australian Register*, 19 April 1843, 2 December 1843.

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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	Former EBENEZER CHAPEL	Building No	35/0105-2
Address	On land 21-29 Brougham Court, North Adelaide 91-92 Brougham Place		CT 4257/927

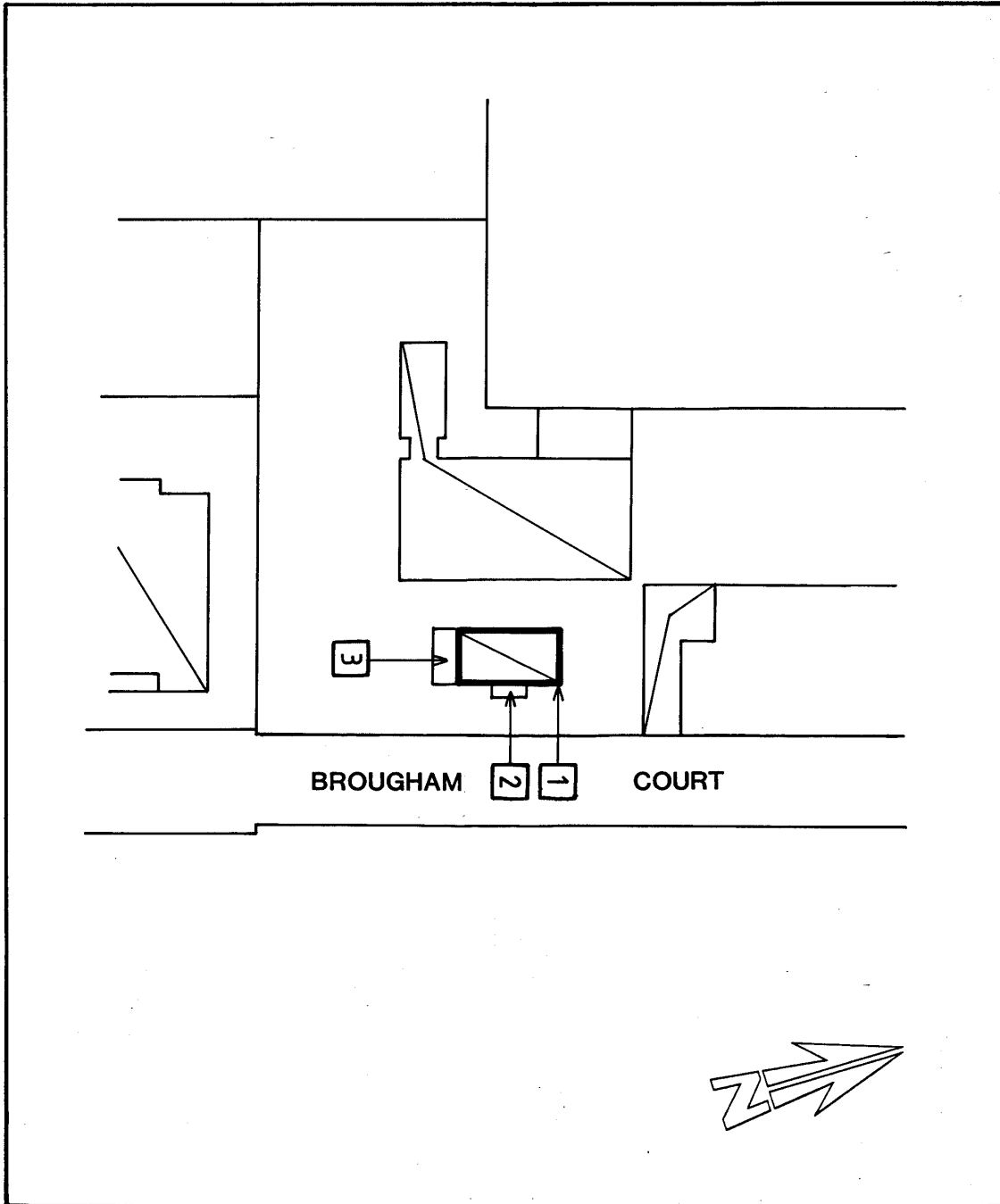


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NOTES:

1. Rendered facade.
2. Verandah over window.
3. Verandah (addition).