

FLINDERS HALL (Former St Paul's School)

217-219 Flinders Street

This former hall was built as school accommodation for St Paul's Church of England, indicating the extent of activities of this prominent Anglican church and the involvement in education by religious denominations particularly before the Education Act of 1875. At the time of construction most of the congregation lived within the city and there were high expectations of St Paul's, justified by the prominent members of society who worshipped there. According to the Conservation Plan for the building by Brown Falconer Architects, the impetus to build St. Paul's Day School came when the Pulteney Street School withdrew the right to use their school as a Sunday School from St. Paul's Church, resulting in the children having to be assembled in the church itself.

The building is of architectural interest as it was built to the design of the architect Edward John Woods. The building strongly resembles Christ Church schoolroom in North Adelaide, which was also designed by Woods (and Wright). Flinders Hall is large and the facade is well detailed by profiled and polychrome brickwork, although overshadowed by adjacent development. The building design is typically Gothic, symbolising its religious affiliations. In 1872 the building was reported to be under construction, the *South Australian Register* of 8 January 1873 describing it as ' . . . some months in abeyance owing to want of sufficient funds . . . ' There would be two schoolrooms, one on each floor:

. . . the narrowness of the ground making it necessary to economise every foot of space. The building is erected with Glen Osmond stone with red brick dressings sparingly relieved with white bricks, the cost of the latter preventing the architect availing himself to any great extent of the superior effect to be derived from their use.

E.J. Woods included a spire at the western end over the entrance in an architectural sketch, but presumably this could not be afforded either. The scrimping and saving obviously needed to establish the school came as something of a surprise, given the wealth of several members of St Paul's congregation. Undoubtedly, the school's purpose, as a day school for the poor, was a cause of less interest than the private schools which catered for their own boys.

In 1887 tenders were received by the architects Wright, Reed and Beavor for alterations and additions to the building. A 'grand staircase' was added in 1891, and in 1896 the schoolroom was again extended and altered to the design of H.E. Fuller (who was intimately associated with the administration of St Paul's). Although it had been proposed to sell the building in 1883 it remained in the hands of the trustees of St Paul's incorporated until sold to Hamilton Laboratories in 1950.

The building appears to be in good condition externally and is stylistically related to the former state school building further east on Flinders Street, and the former St Paul's complex to the west.

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

ACA, Smith Survey 1880; *Church News*, 5 May 1896; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 280); Morgan, E.J.R., & Gilbert, S.H., *Early Adelaide architecture 1836 to 1886*, 1969, p. 52; *South Australian Register*, 8 January 1973.

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	FLINDERS HALL (Former ST. PAUL'S DAY SCHOOL)	Building No 12/0303
Address	217-219 Flinders Street	CT 4171/748

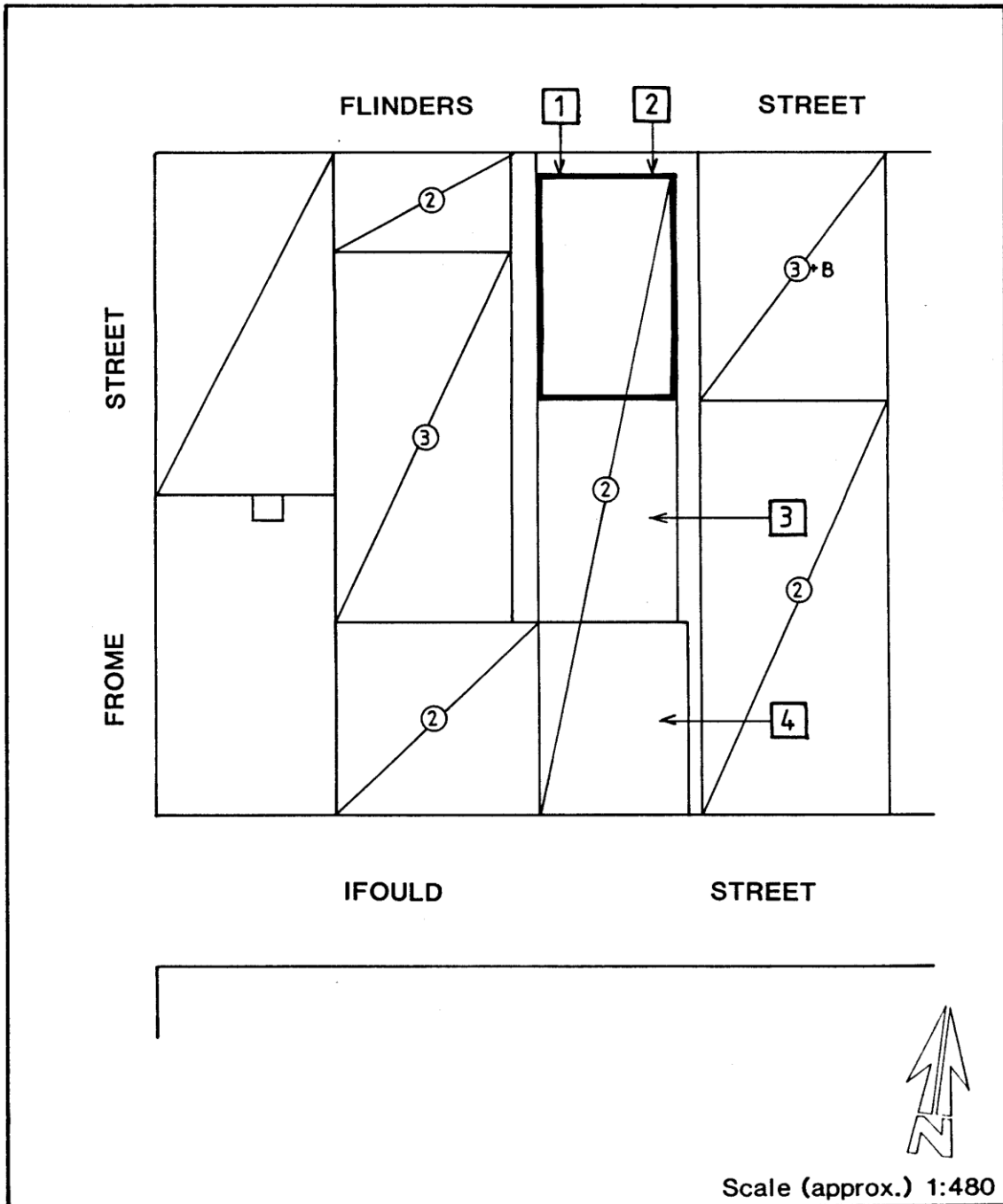


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NOTES:

1. Altered entrance.
2. Coursed random bluestone with brick quoins.
3. Brick addition.
4. Brick addition.