

## FORMER OUR BOYS' INSTITUTE

219-223 Wakefield Street

The Our Boys' Institute (OBI) was established in 1888 as ' . . . a kind of junior Young Men's Christian Association. It was founded by persons who were active in that field of usefulness, has corresponding objects, and employs very similar methods'. Within twenty years ' . . . no fewer than 8500 boys had passed through the institution, in the great majority of cases to their lasting benefit'. The institute building was claimed to have the finest gymnasium in Australia, its large ' . . . swimming-bath . . . was one of the best fitted in the world'. The institute rapidly gained a significant following and in 1869 land facing Wakefield Street was purchased on which this building was erected.

The trustees in 1896 were Thomas Kinley Hamilton, Robert Knowles, John Greeley Jenkins, William Herbert Phillips and E.A.A. and A.C. Dunn. Hamilton was a prominent medical specialist with international experience; Knowles was a merchant associated with the firm of E. & W. Murray and a notable supporter of the Wesleyan denomination and Sunday schools; Phillips was involved in commercial life, president of the YMCA in Adelaide and chairman of the Congregational Union of South Australia; while the Dunn brothers carried on the family business as the grandsons of the prominent industrialist and devout Wesleyan John Dunn. Jenkins like the other trustees, no doubt embodied the required conviction, interest and expertise to fulfill the mission of the OBI health, religious instruction and education.

On 7 August 1896 tenders for the erection of the first section of the institute building were advertised by the architect F.W. Dancker. The building was opened on 23 February 1897 and was sold by the OBI to the minister of education in 1961.



(CD Ref 3964/60)

The elaborately detailed facade displays Dancker's typical eclecticism and his predilection for rather heavy renderings. Architectural eclecticism was common at this time, and the use of Venetian Gothic derived arcading is one typical approach. However, this 'style' was rarely used in Adelaide and the facade is therefore distinctive and unusual.

ACA, *Digest of Proceedings*, 21 September 1896, 13 September 1897; Burgess, H.T., *Cyclopedia of South Australia*, Vol. 1, 1909, p. 263, Vol. 2, pp. 61-2; Loyau, G.E., *Notable*

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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*South Australians*, 1885, pp. 121-2; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 348); *Observer*, 19 October 1895, 27 February 1897; Pascoe, J.J., *Adelaide and vicinity*, 1901, 423-7, 443-5; *South Australian Register*, 7 August 1896.

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 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.*

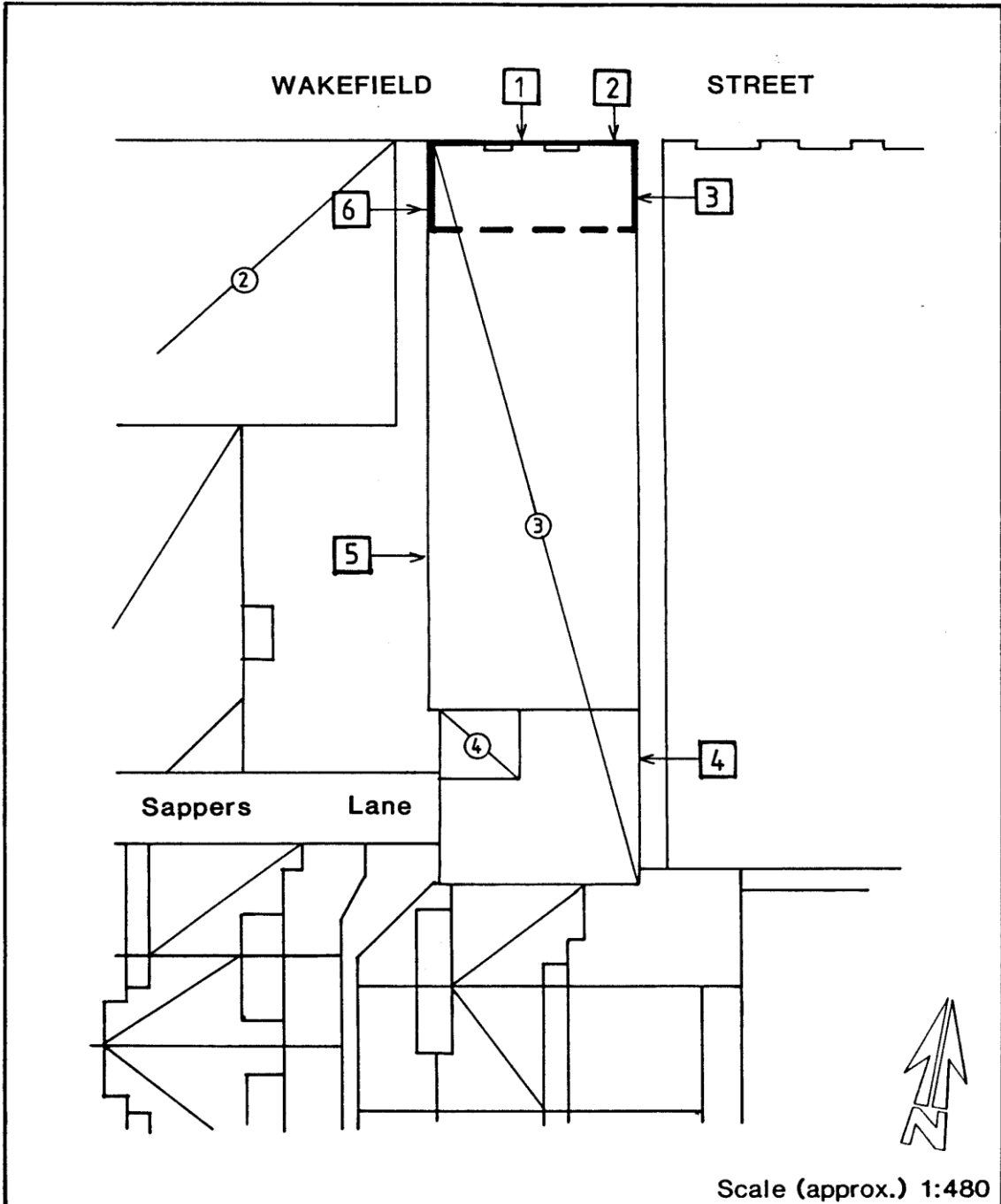


# CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

## The City Heritage Register - Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item DEPARTMENT OF FURTHER EDUCATION OPEN COLLEGE Building No  
OF FURTHER EDUCATION (Former OUR BOYS INSTITUTE) 12/2402  
Address 219-223 Wakefield Street  
CT 610/32\*



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	OF FURTHER EDUCATION (Former OUR BOYS INSTITUTE)	12/2402
Address	219-223 Wakefield Street	

CT 610/32\*

### NOTES:

1. Note columns and tracery at second floor level.
2. Rock faced sandstone with stucco enrichment and squared sandstone plinth.
3. Curtilage to extend approximately 7 metres back from facade.
4. Concrete block addition.
5. Brick (English bond), aluminium sun screens.
6. Rendered.

\* (Conservation site comprises that part of the above CT to a depth of half Town Acre 348 from the Wakefield Street alignment.)