

FREEMASONS HALL

254-260 North Terrace

Freemasonry was one of the earliest associations of South Australia: its membership has included numerous men who have played crucial roles in the state's history, although the specific role of freemasonry itself is hidden from public scrutiny.

The South Australian Grand Lodge was the first to be established in Australia and was formed before the colony was settled. The South Australian Lodge of Friendship was consecrated in London on 22 October 1834 with the colonisation commission's deputy surveyor, George Strickland Kingston as first senior warden. At the proclamation ceremony at Glenelg, freemasons present were Kingston, Robert Gouger, John Morphet and possibly Thomas Gilbert and Beare.

Plans for a masonic temple to be built on North Terrace seem to date from 1913-14 when fundraising was undertaken, but it was ten years before the plans could be put into practice.



(CD Ref 3974/37)

The architects were 'brothers', J. Quinton Bruce and W.H. Harral, who submitted a design in 1923 which was unanimously accepted. However, when tenders were called, the cost was far greater than expected, so the specified cut stone and granite work was replaced by reinforced concrete. 'This was a disappointment to many craftsmen to whom the aesthetic appeals, but Freemasons do not believe in over-running the constable even for the sake of appearances.' However, the imposing scale of the design was retained, the front section to comprise five storeys, a basement and a rear part with a great hall for grand lodge functions. 'On the ground floor will be the administrative offices and billiard rooms and the Hall of Fame, this last rising two storeys with a balcony all round at the height of the first floor level'. Harral personally superintended the work, the main contract for which was let to Anderson and Company. The building was opened in May 1927. Few alterations have been made since then to the interior or exterior.

This city landmark illustrates the way in which compromises were reached between the expression of form and of function in buildings during this transitional period. The choice of classical orders and stylised ornament of Roman origin was deliberate since the orders figure prominently as part of masonic ritual. The central Hall of Fame is most notable for its

propylaeum-like form, aptly chosen for this building. The interior reveals lofty halls and spaces and impressively executed detailing. The building's massive scale and form dominate the surroundings, although it is complemented by the Brookman building on the northern side of North Terrace.

ACA, *Annual report 1924*, p. 92, BSO, drawings, file 5; *Builder*, 6 October 1926; Burgess, H.T., *Cyclopedia of South Australia*, Vol. 2, 1909, pp. 151-4; *Chronicle*, 10 December 1927; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 26); *South Australian Freemason*, 12 March 1913, p. 18, 12 April 1913, p. 17, 15 September 1916, p. 5.

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 FREEMASONS' HALL
Address 254-260 North Terrace

Building No
4/0104

CT 2042/61

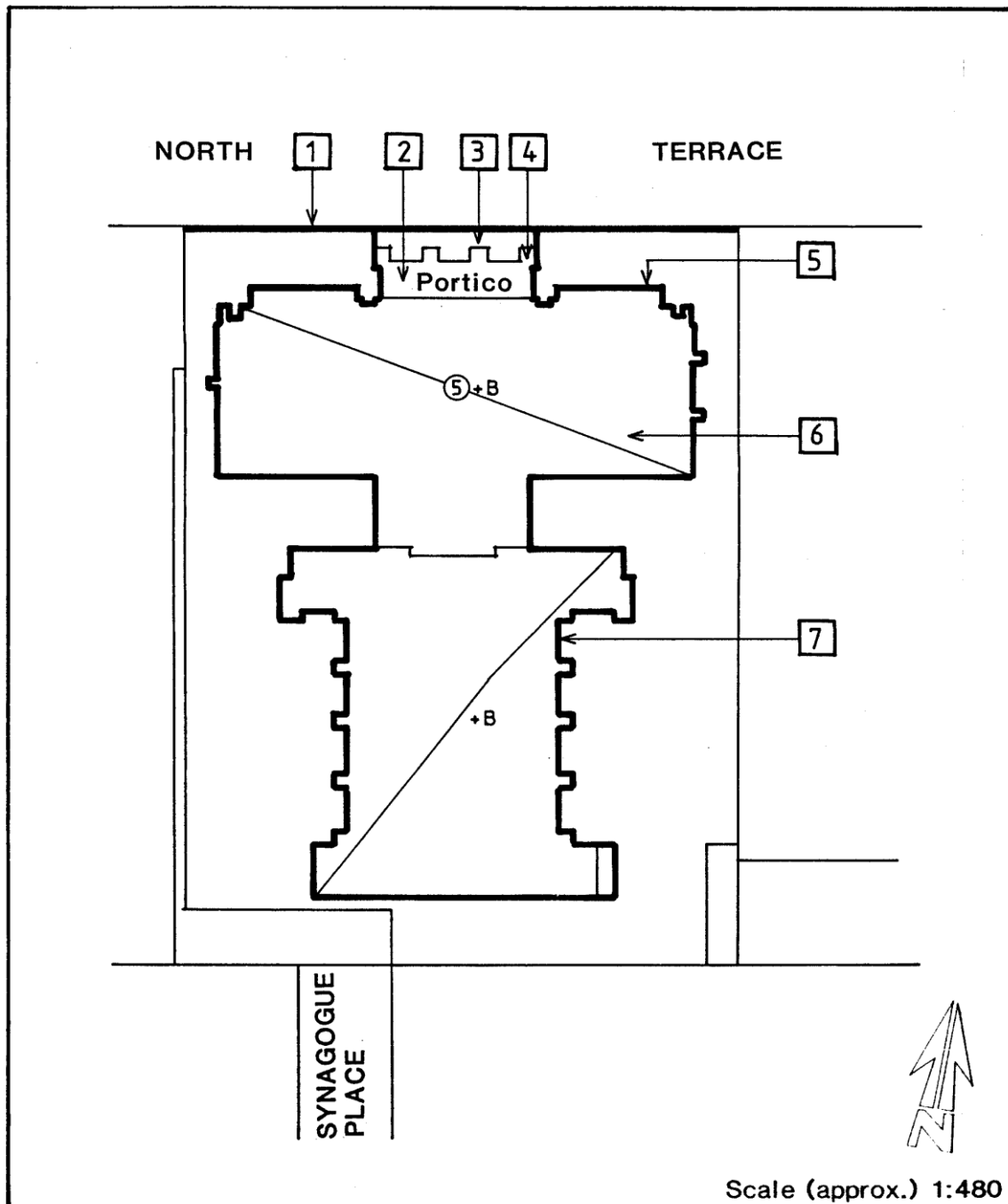


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Item	FREEMASONS' HALL	Building No 4/0104
Address	254-260 North Terrace	CT 2042/61

NOTES:

1. Rendered wall and metal fence.
2. Note use of metal to Portico. Balcony appears to have been enclosed.
3. Include steps in curtilage.
4. Note ionic columns.
5. Rendered facade with line jointing and horizontal rustication at ground and first floor level.
6. Note original ornate interior with Doric Columns.
7. Rendered facade with line jointing.