

## ST MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

26-28 Moore Street

This building was erected in 1887 as a mission church of St John's in an area deemed to be a spiritual 'no man's land'. At the time of the rebuilding of St John's (1887) in Halifax Street, the Reverend Frederic Slaney Poole decided to put any superfluous materials and fittings to good use by erecting a mission church. He explained in 'A Pastoral Letter' to his parishioners in 1886 that it was only because of the 'circumstances of the colony' at the time that the Mission Church was re-erected from the old St John's Church. South Australia at this time was caught in a depression period which continued through almost to the end of the nineteenth century.



(CD Ref 1343/93)

Two days after the formal opening of the newly constructed church the *South Australian Register*, 14 March 1887 claimed ' . . . that the material used in its construction is for the most part composed of the stones and bricks . . . taken from . . . St John . . . ' The design of the church was described throughout as simple but ' . . . unmistakably an Anglican Church'.

St Mary Magdalene's was for a short time between 1906 and 1907 run in conjunction with the North Adelaide church of St Cyprian by the Reverend E.H. Bleby. When he could no longer continue the work, St Mary Magdalene's reverted to the charge of the parish of St John for four months. It was then handed over to the bishop for a five-year period from January 1908. In the same year C.S. Hornabrook was made missionary. In 1919 St Mary Magdalene's was given full status as a parish.

Until the 1920s the congregation comprised working-class folk who lived in the immediate vicinity. After the 1920s the congregation consisted of worshippers who were coming a little further afield from the inner suburbs, made possible by motorised transport. Describing congregations in the 1970s David Hilliard wrote:

*From the late 1970s a few inner-urban parishes, despite their depleted population, took on a new lease of life. St. Mary Magdalene's in the city and St. Oswald's Parkside, for example, developed distinctive styles of worship which attracted congregations from many parts of the metropolitan area.*

The architect for the church was R. Garlick Holwell who also prepared the plans for the re-erection of St John's Church. Couche and Perkins were the contractors.

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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Because the church had an inseparable link to the mission which stands adjacent to the south, ties extended to St Peter's College. These ties are eulogised in a roll of honour containing 161 names of the boys of St Peter's College who served in the First World War.

It is a severely detailed Gothic building, well constructed of brick, with a bell tower which is a noteworthy feature.

Environmentally this building is perhaps anachronistic in its present surrounds, being isolated from its historical context in an area of commercial uses. Built to serve a former poor, residential area, this building recalls the earlier residential nature and character of this part of the city.

Hilliard, D., *Godliness and good order*, 1986, p. 139; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 448), 'A pastoral letter' in *Financial statements of St John's Church*, SRG 94/9/4; *South Australian Register*, 14 March 1887.

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*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.*

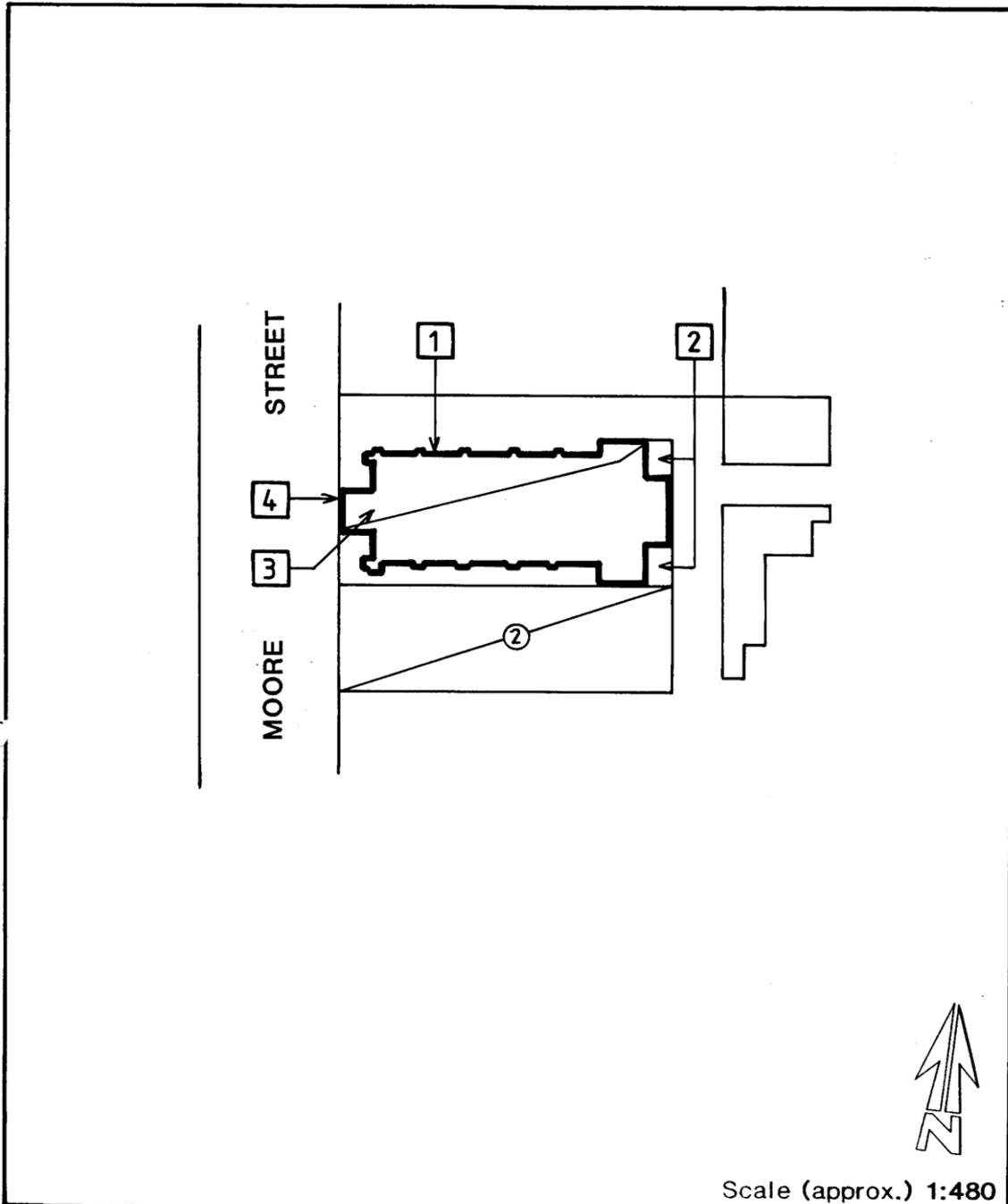


# CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

## The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	ST. MARY MAGDALENE'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND	Building No 16/0327
Address	26-28 Moore Street	CT 450/198



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### NOTES:

1. Brick construction (English bond) with bluestone plinth.
2. Sympathetic brick additions.
3. Note Belltower.
4. Note Leadlight windows.