

CHRIST CHURCH AND RECTORY

31-39 Palmer Place



(CD Ref 1724/64)

Christ Church and the flanking residences known as Bishop's Court and the Rectory form perhaps the best known and most revered group of heritage items in Adelaide. The heritage worth of this prominent group is manifest in historical, architectural and environmental terms. The integrity of the group remains high and its significance to South Australia and the City of Adelaide in particular is beyond doubt as the foremost representation of the development and consolidation of the Anglican Church in South Australia. As a whole the group is unique in extent, age, and as a record of working ecclesiastical buildings of the late 1840s and early 1850s.

Bishop Short brought plans for such buildings from England, although reports contemporary with their construction credit their design to Henry Stuckey and William Weir. Goodhugh in 1852 credited Weir with the design of the church and Stuckey with that of the two residences.

Weir published a tender notice in the *South Australian Register*, 6 May 1848 for the building of a church at North Adelaide, that is, Christ Church, so he must have had at least a supervisory capacity if not a design responsibility for Christ Church. While this suggests that Stuckey was not the architect for the church, the *South Australian Register*, 2 January 1850 described the interior fittings of Christ Church as ' . . . executed by our local artists and mechanics in accordance with the tasteful designs of Mr H. Stuckey, the architect'.

The church is constructed of Adelaide limestone, as indicated in the *South Australian Register*, 22 March 1848 which carried a tender notice to quarry stone from the quarry under Government House with cartage to Town Acre 745, ' . . . near the residence of Wm. James Esq., North Adelaide, Christ Church, North Adelaide'.

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

In two subsequent tender notices for the same work, W. Weir was recorded as the architect.

The foundation stone of Christ Church was laid on 1 June 1848, and it was consecrated in December 1849. The plan of the first part of the church was roughly cruciform. The first incumbent was the Reverend W.J. Woodcock who was shortly afterwards created a canon when Bishop Short founded the dean and chapter, and in 1856 Woodcock was appointed archdeacon of Adelaide.

The nave was completed to the design of Edmund Wright in 1855, and in 1860 the apse was erected. The apse contains a disciplined and impressive combination of limestone rubble walling and sandstone dressings with brick quoins, strings and corbel table.

In 1872 Daniel Garlick designed and supervised alterations to the church, and the building then reached its present basic form with a new boarded ceiling, porches and a turret at the crossing for ventilation.



Church (CD Ref 1724/63)

The original design had intended two squat towers to be erected east of the transepts with a peal of bells, but this was not carried out. If not for the financial assistance of Bishop Short (by 1868 he had contributed £1000), Christ Church may not have attained its present high level of physical completion. Short's commitment to the building and its fittings was probably due to his use of the building as a pro-Cathedral before the erection of St Peters Cathedral.

The building is in very good order and is one of the most prominent elements of this area of special character. The church closes western vistas from the Brougham Place ridge, and stands as one of the most distinctive and attractive of Adelaide's heritage items.

Christ Church is a focal element of Palmer Place and the centrepiece of this harmonious group of buildings with its incorporation of Anglo-Norman details and use of sandstone, limestone and brick. The architectural unity of the group springs from the similar construction dates of the buildings and the use of limestone rubble, squared with brick as the walling technique. The limestone has weathered to an attractive hue which resembles that of buildings erected in the English Cotswolds, and stands in distinct contrast to the dark bluestone walling typical of later structures. One of the few major alterations was the replacement of slates with corrugated galvanised iron roof cladding.

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ACA, Smith Survey 1880; *Chronicle*, 13 August 1904; Goodhugh, *South Australian illustrated and commercial almanac for, 1852*; MLSA, *Church News*, 12 June 1896, Historical photographs (Town Acre 745), RN 46; Morgan, E.J.R., & Gilbert, S.H., *Early Adelaide architecture 1836 to 1886*, 1969, pp. 103-106; *South Australian Register*, 22



Rectory (CD Ref 1724/67)

March 1848, 1 April 1848, 29 April 1848, 6 May 1848, 1 June 1848, 2 January 1850, 3 October 1854.

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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	CHRIST CHURCH	Building No	31/0801-1
Address	On land 31-39 Palmer Place, North Adelaide 62-78 Jeffcott Street	GM 63 Book 495	

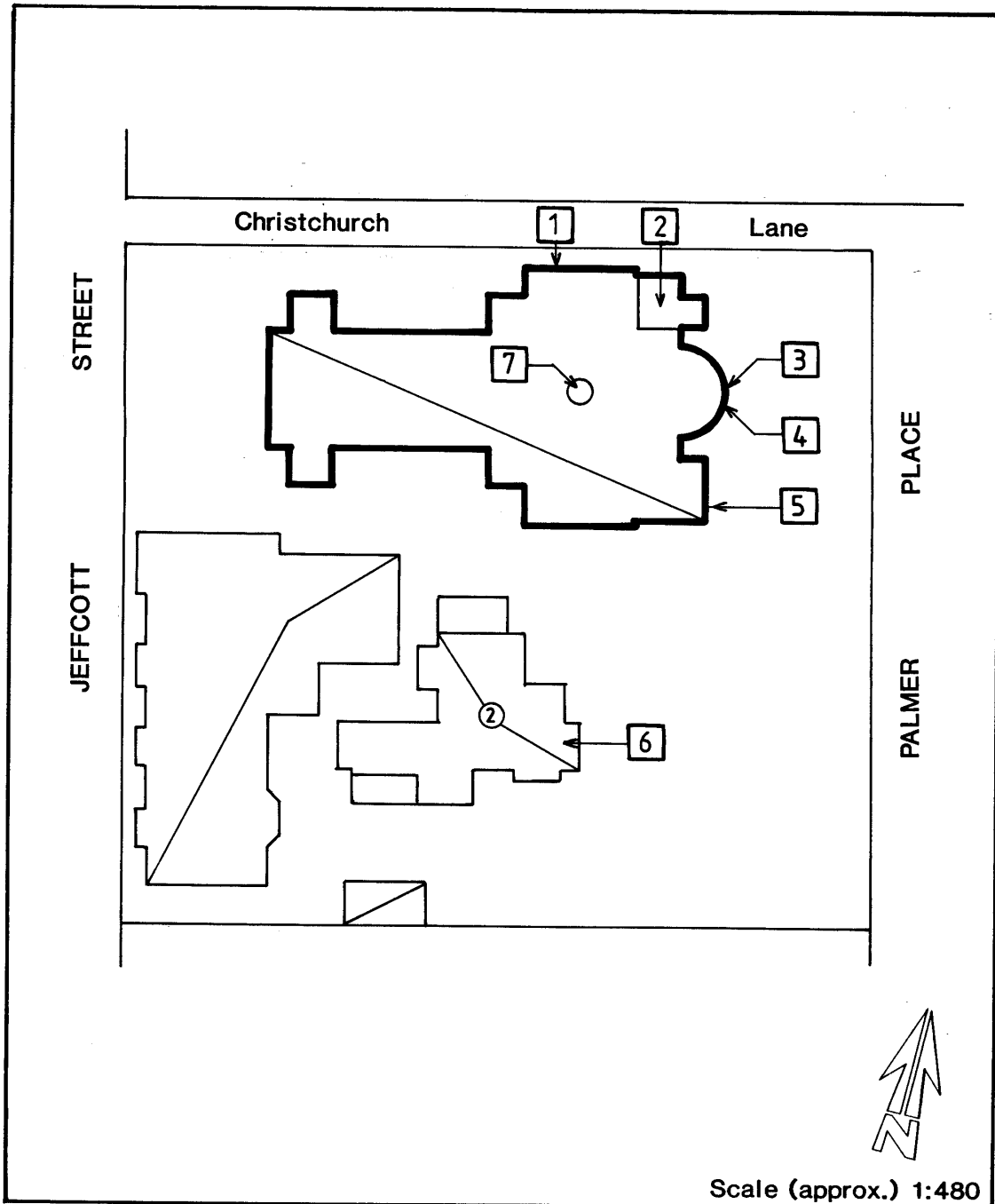


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NOTES:

1. Note sandstone window hood mouldings.
2. Sympathetic addition (1961) - brick with stucco/sandstone enrichment.
3. Limestone rubble with brick detailing and plinth.
4. Note semicircular apse and leadlight.
5. Bluestone plinth.
6. Note Rectory also listed.
7. Metal spire and finial.



CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

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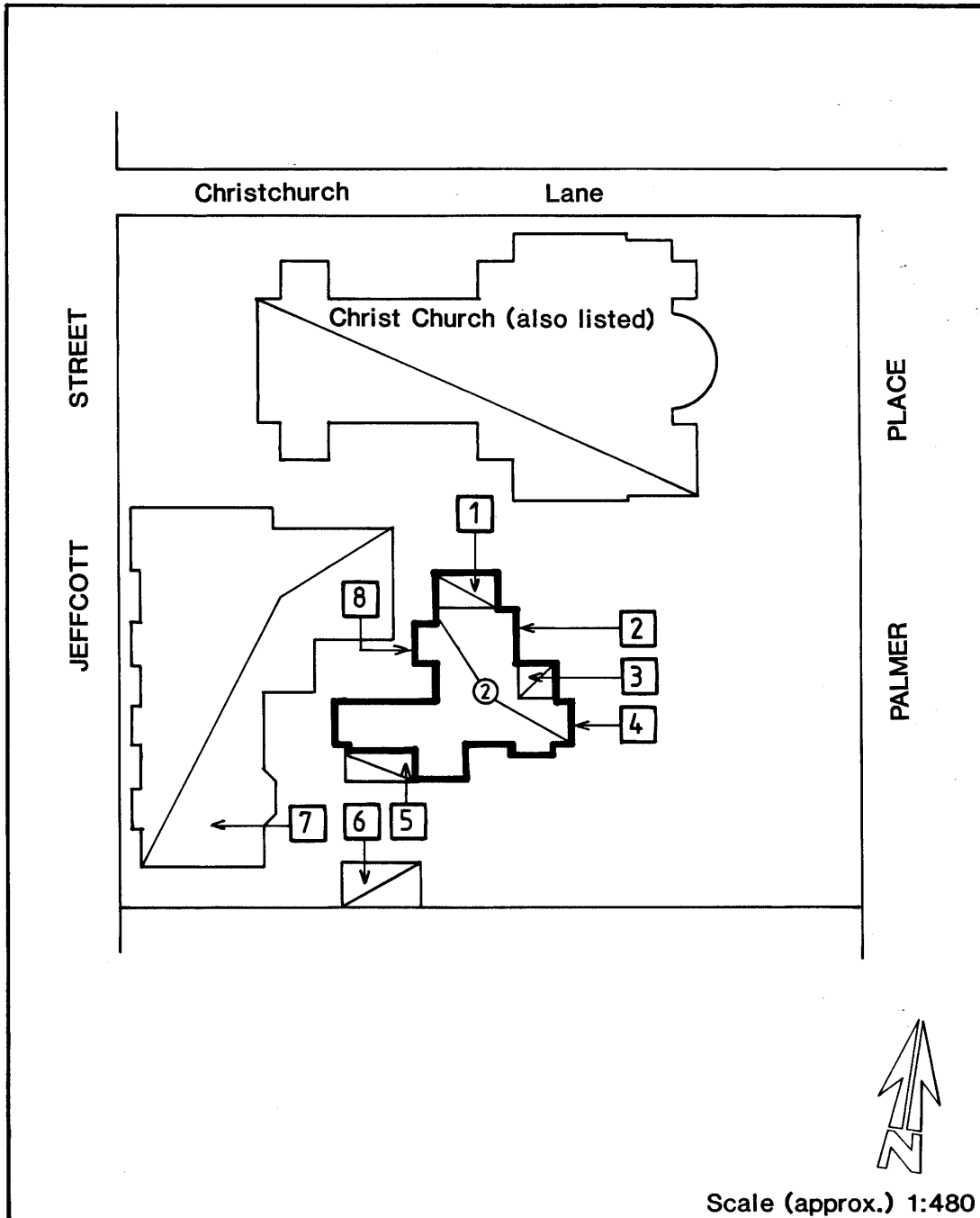


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NOTES:

1. Lean-to.
2. Note gables and attendant brick detailing.
3. Balcony with battlement parapet.
4. Limestone rubble with brick detailing.
5. Brick addition.
6. Concrete block.
7. Brick.
8. Rendered facade where former building has been terminated.