

BAPTIST CHURCH OFFICE (Former Manse)

65-69 Flinders Street

The minister of South Australia's principal Baptist congregation lived in this former manse which was designed by James Cumming. It was built in 1877 as a residence for Reverend Silas Mead, a prominent South Australian, pioneer Baptist minister and first incumbent of the Flinders Street Baptist Church. He remained at the head of the Baptist Church for thirty-six years.

The manse (now offices), hall and church are a working group of ecclesiastical buildings with an integrity now rare anywhere in the state. In particular, the group is a physical manifestation of the unification and outreach of the Baptist cause in colonial South Australia.

The *South Australian Register*, 1 January 1877, described the Flinders Street manse, then under construction, as ' . . . a tasteful and at the same time substantial manse . . . both commodious and comfortable'. Brown and Wood were the contractors.

The design and construction complement the adjacent church and hall. The former manse is attractively built of dimensioned bluestone with sandstone dressings and stuccoed enrichment. The high quality construction is enhanced by the incorporation of picturesque elements and detailing with Gothic overtones such as chimney tops, porch, eaves detail and steep roof pitch. Also notable are the surviving cast-iron finials and fence railings. At the rear the external walls of the former manse contribute to a blue stone dominated enclave created by the three church buildings. The interior is of interest displaying the original high quality plasterwork and joinery.

ACA, Assessments, Smith Survey 1880; Hinds, J., 'Baptist Church' in D. Langmead (ed), *Creed and architecture*, 1970, p. 93; Hughes, Rev. H.E., *Our first hundred years - the Baptist Church in Adelaide*, 1937, pp. 21, 31, 49; Loyau, G.E., *Notable South Australians*, 1885, p. 164; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 273); *South Australian*, 30 June 1838, 1 September 1838; *South Australian Register*, 2 June 1861, 26 June 1861, 1 January 1877, 1 July 1877, 23 March 1878.

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.

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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	BAPTIST CHURCH OFFICE	Building No 11/0207-2
Address	65-69 Flinders Street	CT 4236/853

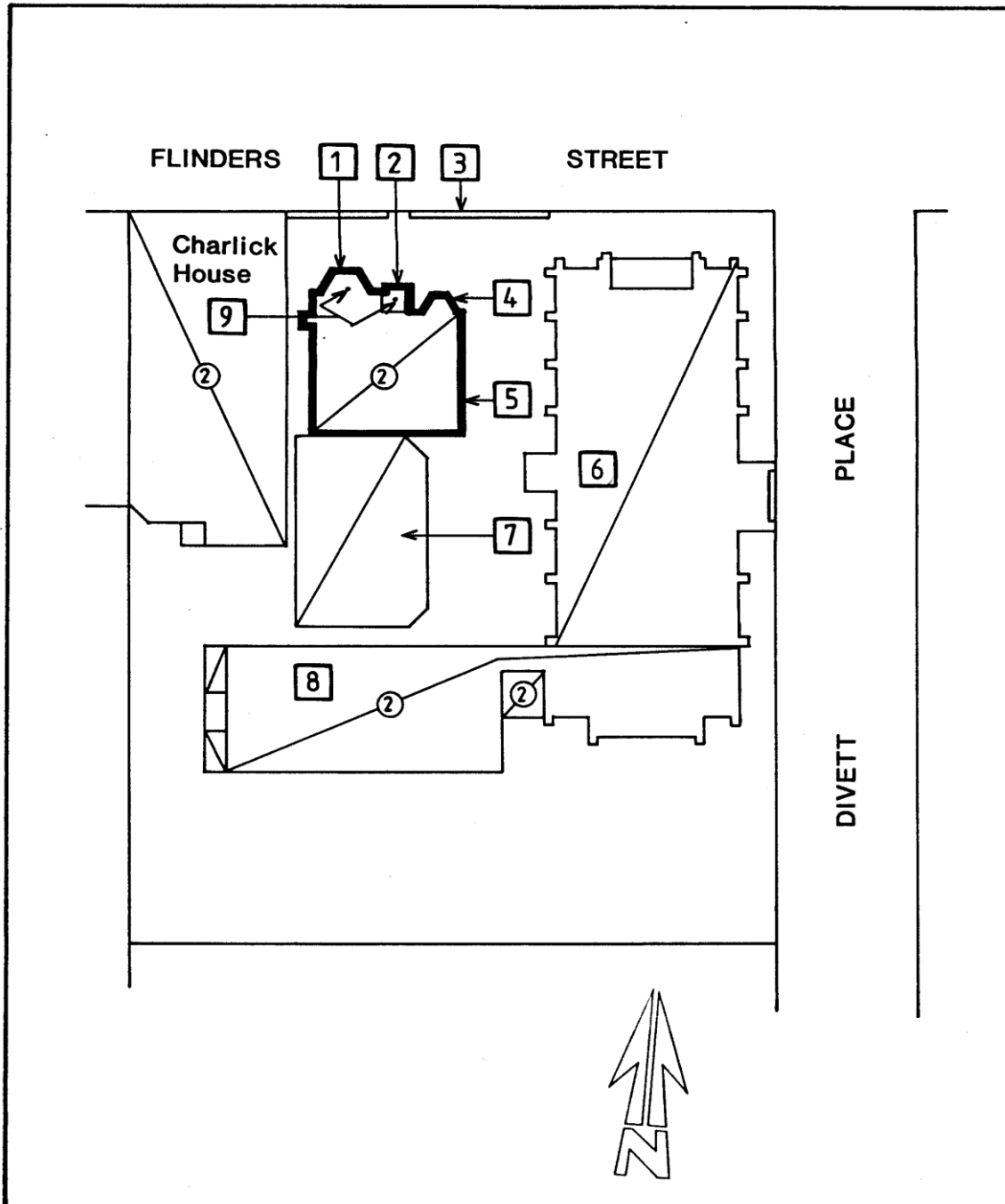


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Item	BAPTIST CHURCH OFFICE	Building No 11/0207-2
Address	65-69 Flinders Street	CT 4236/85 3

NOTES:

1. Double storey bay window.
2. Porch with timber joinery.
3. Bluestone wall and cast iron railing.
4. Single storey bay window.
5. Bluestone rubble with sandstone quoins and rendered dressings.
6. Baptist church also listed.
7. New addition.
8. Mead Hall, also listed.
9. Finials.

MEAD HALL

(rear) 65-69 Flinders Street

The *South Australian Register* reported on 2 June 1869 that the Flinders Street Baptist congregation had long ' . . . felt the necessity of erecting a large hall for Sunday-school purposes, week-night services, and social meetings, the accommodation provided by the present large vestry and the various schoolrooms being insufficient'.

The site was bought in 1865 and the hall was erected in 1869 by Brown and Thompson to the design of James Cumming who was also architect for the new manse. The 'Baptist Schoolroom' was a hall, used as a Sunday school, a lecture hall and a venue for the many social activities and meetings of the adjoining Flinders Street Baptist Church. It was described as comprising 'handsome and commodious schoolrooms', with access to the church provided by covered passages. 'The ground floor is a fine lecture hall 60 x 36 feet and the floor above it is divided into 16 classrooms entered from a centre passage, which is reached by a staircase at each end.' A keeper's lodge, sheds and stabling were also erected, total expenditure being more than £2300.

Mead Hall is of considerable architectural merit as part of a distinctive enclave within the city. The construction, of bluestone rubble (roughly squared at the angles) with dressed sandstone surrounds to openings, corresponds with the construction and 'Italo-Gothic' design of the adjacent church. The hall's elevations are severe with paired window openings 'punched' into massive bluestone walling topped by a parapet.

In 1983 Mead Hall was refurbished and unsympathetic accretions were cleared away, leaving a building of high integrity within an ecclesiastical environment of considerable visual impact when viewed across the stone wall from Divett Place.

Flinders Street Baptist Church, jubilee souvenir, 1911, pp. 12-13; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 273); *South Australian Register*, 26 June 1861, 2 June 1869, January 1870.

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CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	MEAD HALL	Building No 11/0207.3
Address	Rear 65 Flinders Street (on part of land at 65-69 Flinders Street)	CT 4236/853

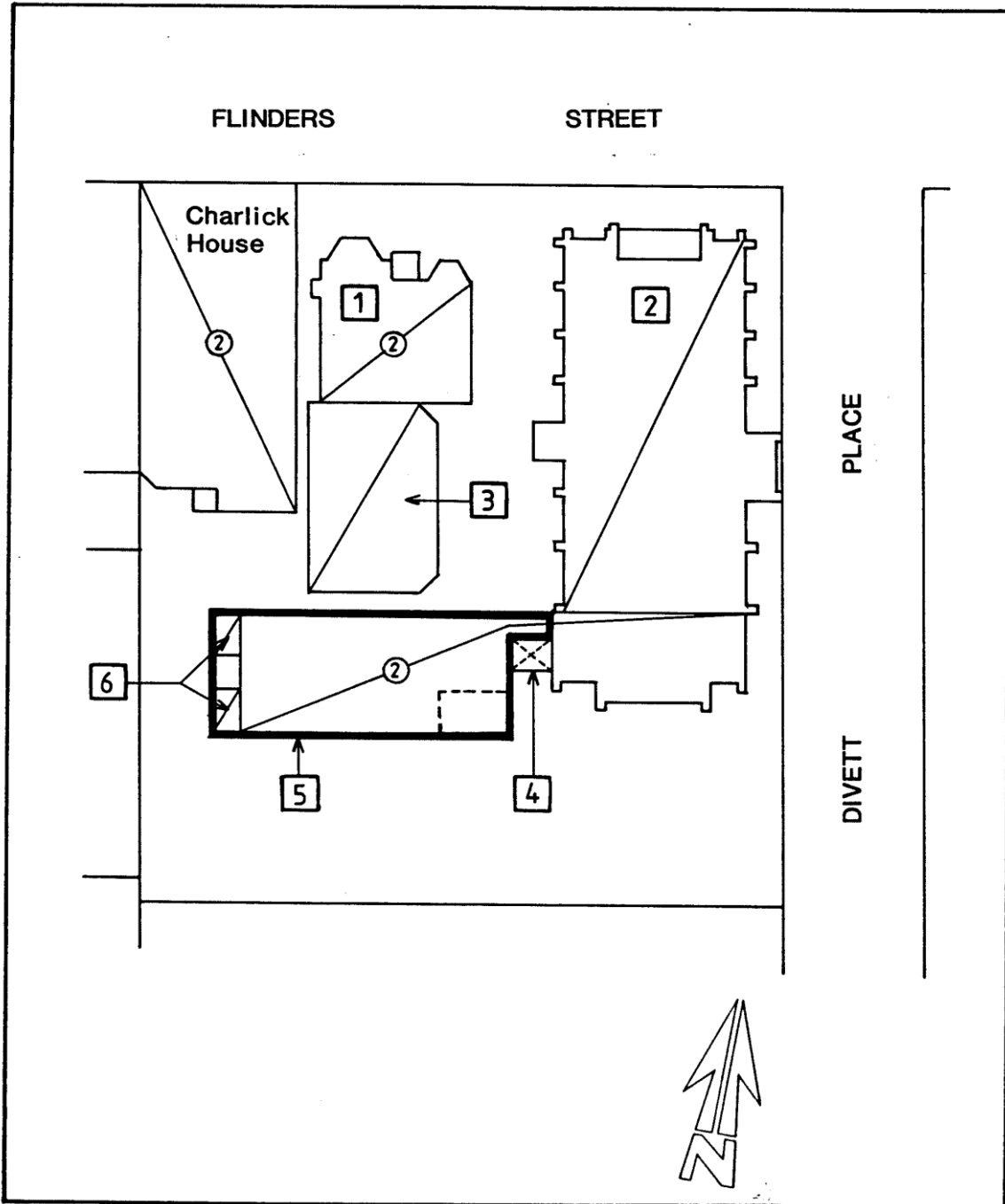


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NOTES:

1. Former Manse also listed.
2. Baptist church also listed.
3. New addition.
4. Toilet removed and ground floor restored.
5. Bluestone rubble with rendered dressings.
6. Bluestone leantos.