

ADELAIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL, ANGAS BUILDING

70 King William Road



Angas Building was the second major structure of the Adelaide Children's Hospital. With the subsequent demolition of the original Way Building this is now the oldest of the hospital buildings and a good example of early hospital architecture.

By the 1870s a third of South Australia's

(CD Ref 1721/94)

population lived in the metropolitan area. Many were in old and overcrowded streets within the city, and infant mortality rates were so high as to excite general debate. At the same time there was an increasing general interest in social reform. As a relatively recent phenomenon, children's hospitals were much discussed in Adelaide's charitable circles, and the idea of a voluntary children's hospital for the poor was then promoted by Dr Allan Campbell.

Thus in September 1876 a group of charitable upper middle-class women met with Dr Campbell, formed a subcommittee and founded the Adelaide Children's Hospital. A public meeting was attended by the men and women of the 'Establishment', many of whom were already noted benefactors and charitable workers. A committee was formed and oversaw, among other things, purchase of the 'conveniently situated' site at North Adelaide, and the design and construction of the first hospital building:

A hundred years ago enterprises were founded and run in an entirely different way from the enormous institutions of the twentieth century. They were founded by small groups of energetic upper-class men and women; the socially prominent, the wealthy and the well-read. A small salaried staff would be assisted by numerous voluntary helpers, and an entirely voluntary board would control and manage the enterprise . . . such (upper-class) women played an important part in the founding of charitable institutions at this time.

The Adelaide Children's Hospital soon emerged as a major philanthropic institution in this mould. The new hospital's chief benefactors were the Angas family; father and son, G.E and J.H. Angas, each donating large sums. John Howard Angas and a committee of ladies also undertook to find the first lady superintendent.

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

Inevitably demand soon outstripped the accommodation. Piecemeal additions were made between the opening of the first building in 1879 and 1892, when J.H. Angas, as vice-president of the board, stated that ' . . . his attention had been called to the need of further accommodation at the Children's Hospital'. He said that he was prepared to defray the entire cost of a proposed new building. In Barbalet's words, ' . . . with this gesture, at a stroke, the number of cots at the Hospital was doubled . . . the lean years were over'.

A building committee had already produced sketches of a new building designed to form a quadrangle with the existing buildings, and with a frontage to Poole Street (King William Road). Angas engaged the architect Alfred Wells and had the plans redrawn. The building was constructed during 1893 and opened on 1 May 1894 by Angas.



(CD Ref 1215/41)

The building contained two surgical wards on the first floor with the outpatients department, dispensary and house-surgeon's quarters on the ground floor. An over-way connected with the central block and thus with the original building.

The building is similar in form to a number of the public model schools of the day, and is of a simple utilitarian design with overtones of the Gothic Revival. It is well constructed of squared random coarsed sandstone set over a bluestone plinth. The building stone was described at the time as Little Para freestone from Thomas Williams' quarry near Salisbury.



(CD Ref 1721/93)

The building provides diversity and interest in the streetscape, and humanises the vast hospital buildings which have been constructed later. Together with the adjacent Allan Campbell Building, it contributes much to the local character of King William Road.

ACA, BSO, card index; Barbalet, M., *The Adelaide Children's Hospital, 1876-1976*, 1975, pp. 5, 16, 17, 19-20, 23, 27, 29, 53, 56-8; Burgess, H.T., *Cyclopedia of South Australia*,

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

Vol. 1, 1909, pp. 256-7, Vol. 2, pp. 67-8; MLSA, Historical photographs (Town Acre 730); *Pictorial Australian*, June-July 1893, May-June 1894.

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 | ANGAS BUILDING, ADELAIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL | Building No | 35/0301-8 |
| Address | 70 King William Road, North Adelaide (On part of land at 42-80 King William Road) | CT | 1108/137 |

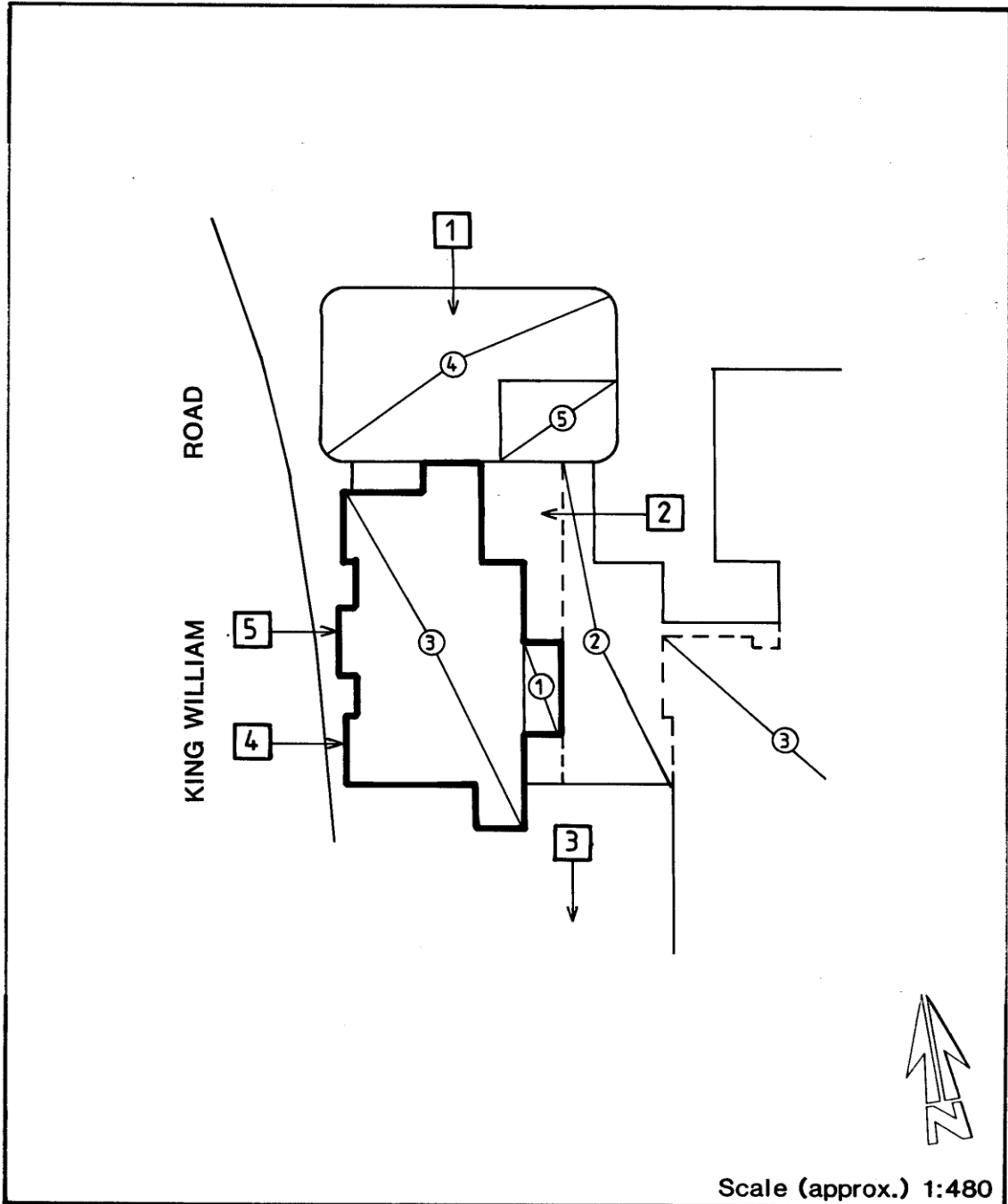


Image scanned - not to stated scale.

This Curtilage Map has been prepared as a guide only and no warranty or assurance is given about the accuracy of the content as it may contain obsolete information. The Corporation excludes all liability [including for negligence] in relation to your use of these documents.



CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

| | | |
|----------------|--|--------------------|
| Item | ANGAS BUILDING, ADELAIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL | Building No |
| Address | 70 King William Road, North Adelaide (On part of land at 42-80 King William Road) | 35/0301-8 |
| | | CT 1108/137 |

NOTES:

1. Abutting cream brick building.
2. Unsympathetic additions abutting at first and second floor levels.
3. Note Allan Campbell Building also listed.
4. Squared punch faced sandstone with bluestone plinth and faced sandstone detailing.
5. Note leadlight.