

## THE MUSEUM OF ECONOMIC BOTANY

Botanic Gardens, off North Terrace

In the mid 1870s Dr Schomburghk announced the necessity of a new building for the existing herbarium and economic collection. The collection which was stowed away in a 'little room in the backyard' was being slowly destroyed by damp and white ant.

Grants were sanctioned by parliament in 1877-79. Plans were drawn up by colonial architect-in-chief E.J. Woods for a new museum ' . . . in the Greek style and the first of its kind in South Australia'. It was erected under Woods' supervision and built by James Anderson. The chief glory of this building is its finely decorated ceiling, which was painted in a Greek design by W.J. Williams. The overall design of the museum was reviewed by Schomburghk as 'chaste and tasteful'.

Built of random masonry and then rendered in thick cement to imitate ashlar, the museum has little decoration to its front. There is a rolled metal truncated-hip roof with cast-iron lacework along the ridge.

The museum helps establish the physical character of the Botanic Gardens and is located centrally in the gardens looking out over a large open lawn planted with conifers.

The building - which remains almost unchanged in form and function - is of architectural and historical importance. It was part of a major expansion program set up by Dr Schomburghk during his time as director, 1865-91, and reflects the high regard for scientific and educational displays and institutions held during that Victorian era.

Best, B., *George William Francis*, 1986, p. 89; Botanic Gardens Library, Letter: director to architect-in-chief, 4 April 1938, director of Botanic Garden to director of Public Buildings, no. 357, 11 March 1969; *Chronicle*, 3 November 1938; Marcus, W.E., *South Australia: its history, resources and productions*, 1876; Lamshed, M., *The Botanic Gardens*, 1955 pp. 63-7, 93; MLSA, Historical photographs; *Observer*, 28 March 1891; PRO GRG38/7/155/20.12.1865 38/7/131/1.12.1865; GRG70 Annual reports of the Botanic Gardens, 1873-84; SAPP, No. 29, Appointment of Hospital and Lunatic Asylum Commission, 1864, p. iv; SAPD, 15, 30 October 1935, 22, 23 September 1936; *South Australian Government Gazette*, 10 October 1857, 21 January 1858; *South Australian Register*, 23 January 1877; State Heritage Branch, Register nomination: Museum of Economic Botany, 3 March 1981; Brief for the conservation of the tropical house, October 1982.

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.

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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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.*

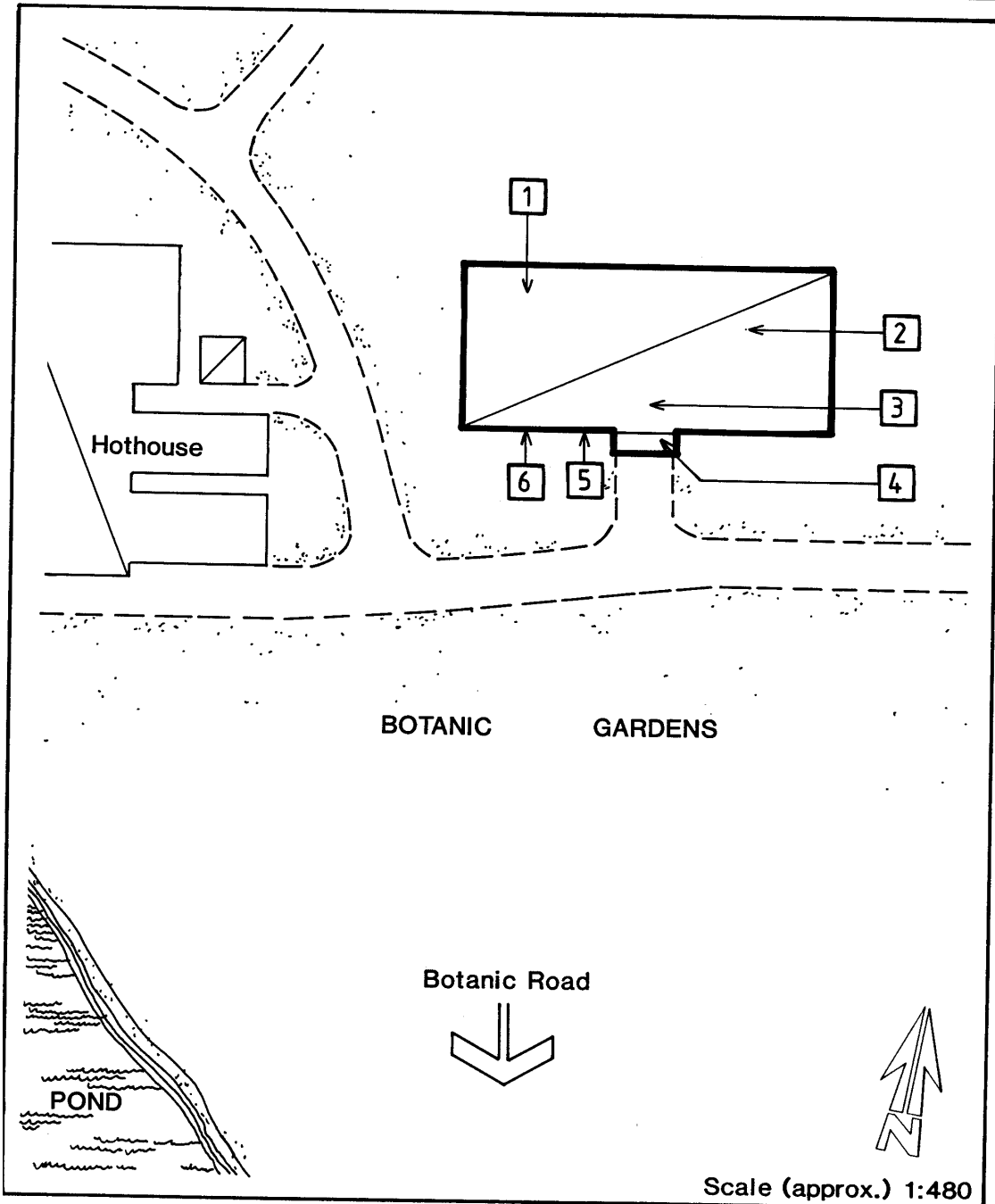


# CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

## The City Heritage Register - Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	MUSEUM OF ECONOMIC BOTANY	Building No	110516
Address	Botanic Gardens, off North Terrace (Pk. 11.05)		



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Item MUSEUM OF ECONOMIC BOTANY

Building No

110516

Address Botanic Gardens, off North Terrace (Pk. 11.05)

### NOTES:

1. Sheet iron rolls roofing.
2. Note: Metal cresting and finials.
3. Note: Original interior, especially stencil decoration to ceiling.
4. Note: Portico columns and pediment.
5. Rendered facade with horizontal rustication to approximately 2m.
6. Note: Pilasters and dentils.