

## **BONYTHON HALL**

### **University of Adelaide**

North Terrace

Bonython Hall is one of the most conspicuous landmarks on North Terrace and can be seen from Pulteney Street from as far as the south Park Lands when travelling towards North Terrace. The massive hall stands defiantly on a site which was nearly lost to a road building scheme to extend Pulteney Street northwards, mooted shortly before the construction of the hall.

In 1930 the University of Adelaide received a large donation of £40 000 from Sir John Langdon Bonython to construct a 'Great Hall' similar to those at the universities of Melbourne and Sydney. The design by Waiter Hervey Bagot of Woods, Bagot, Laybourne Smith & Irwin, ' . . . combined architectural beauty and harmony with the selected setting in a building suitable for the purpose for which it will be required'. He successfully created a mediaeval structure in the tradition of the old British universities.



The Great Hall was built of Murray Bridge limestone with surfaces worked to show the natural texture of the stone. Roofing slates were from the Willunga quarries. Inside the wainscot and joinery were of Manchurian and Australian oak (*Eucalyptus obliqua*), oiled and polished. The escutcheons in the ceiling decoration display the arms of the university alternately with those of the Bonython family.

The mediaeval style was adapted to the modern requirements for good acoustics and such contemporary technology as steel trusses in the ceiling and reinforced concrete vaulting rather than stone. Sir Langdon Bonython insisted upon a sloping floor as he wanted the hall to be used for ceremonial purposes and not for such frivolities as dancing. To suit local climatic conditions and to prevent the glare of direct sunlight the windows were set within a system of arcading.

The foundation stone was laid by Sir John

(CD Ref 2835/82)

Langdon Bonython in 1933. On 8 September 1936 in South Australia's centenary year 1400 guests were invited to the ceremony in which the governor general Lord Gowrie officially opened the hall.

## Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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*Advertiser*, 11 June 1936; Edgeloe, V.A., *Guide to the University of Adelaide*, c. early 1980s; *News*, 8 September 1936; *Official opening and inspection of the Bonython Hall* (pamph.), 8 September 1936; University of Adelaide Archives, Letter from chancellor to Sir L. Bonython, 29 January 1921; *University of Adelaide Centenary, 1874-1974*.



(CD Ref 2835/83)

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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.*

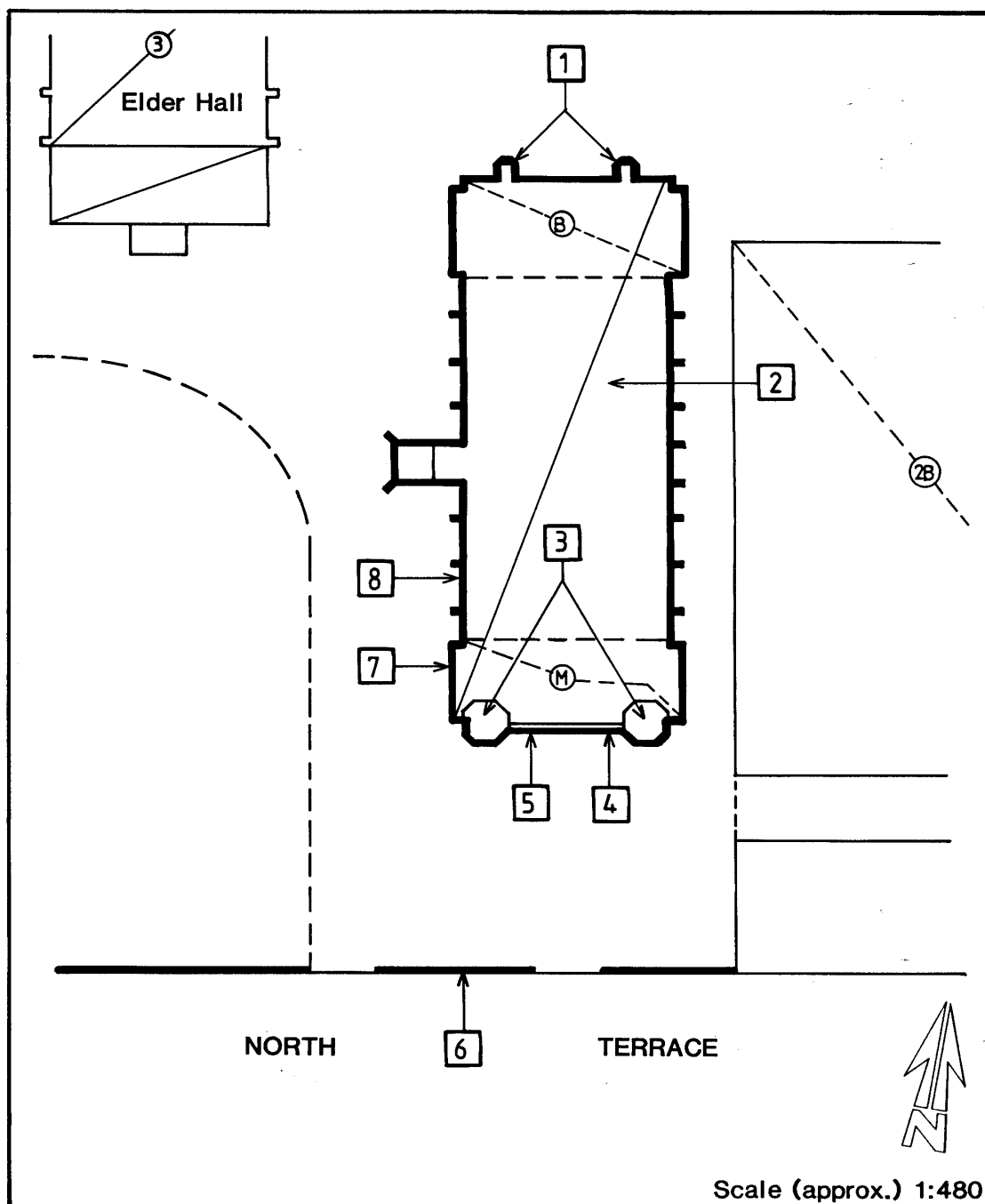


## CITY OF ADELAIDE HERITAGE STUDY

### The City Heritage Register-Definition of Items

Prepared by the Dept. of Planning and Development

Item	BONYTHON HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE	Building No
Address	North Terrace	122004



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Item BONYTHON HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

Building No

Address North Terrace

122004

### NOTES:

1. Spires.
2. Slate roof.
3. Octagonal towers with battlement parapets.
4. Note: Tracery and leadlight windows.
5. Note: Lion figurine parapet.
6. Rock faced sandstone and cast iron fence.
7. Rock faced sandstone.
8. Note: Tracery and leadlight windows.