

ELDER HALL

University of Adelaide

Off North Terrace

Elder Hall was the first university building constructed as a result of philanthropy. It became the permanent home for the Conservatorium of Music. At the time, apart from the Town Hall, it was the only other venue for music performance and many fine concerts were held there.

While not as elaborate as its neighbours, the Mitchell Building and the Bonython Hall, Elder Hall is part of a prominent ensemble and a notable element of the cultural and constitutional boulevard of North Terrace. The materials used in these three buildings are all stone, complementing each other.

Sir Thomas Elder made the generous philanthropic gesture which provided a home for the School of Music. The sum of £20 000 was part of a large £65 000 legacy bequeathed to the university in 1898. Elder's bequests had a major impact on Adelaide in many respects as they were also used to build the first Art Gallery of South Australia and to create the Adelaide Workmen's Homes.

A School of Music was founded in 1884, its permanent home, Elder Hall, was informally opened by a concert on 27 April 1900.

The hall was designed by F.J. Naish to seat a thousand, with orchestra and chorus room for three hundred. It was in a plain 'Florentine Gothic' style with a corrugated iron roof and built of freestone from Stirling West. Walter C. Torode successfully tendered for £13 625 to construct it. He had five teams which were engaged in carting the freestone from the quarry site. The dressings, quoins and turrets were in Mount Gambier freestone. The front had been ' . . . beautified by a quantity of chaste and artistic carving and moulding which gave the edifice a well finished appearance'. The open hammer beam roof had thirteen massive principals and polished wood ceiling.

On 26 September 1900 the hall was officially opened. The governor Lord Tennyson who had been to several performances at the Conservatorium of Music before its official opening said, 'Now I am asked to reopen it positively for the last time'.

He also observed that the hall would become the central home of all studies, degree ceremonies and examinations. Elder Hall was the venue for all such functions until the construction of the adjacent Bonython Hall was completed.

Advertiser, 27 April 1900, 27 September 1900; Old Parliament House Library, Lands Department photographs; *Register*, 28 April 1900; *South Australian Register*, 1 June 1899, 7 November 1899; *University of Adelaide Centenary, 1874-1974*, p. 25.

Heritage of the City of Adelaide

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	ELDER HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE	Building N ^o
Address	North Terrace	122002

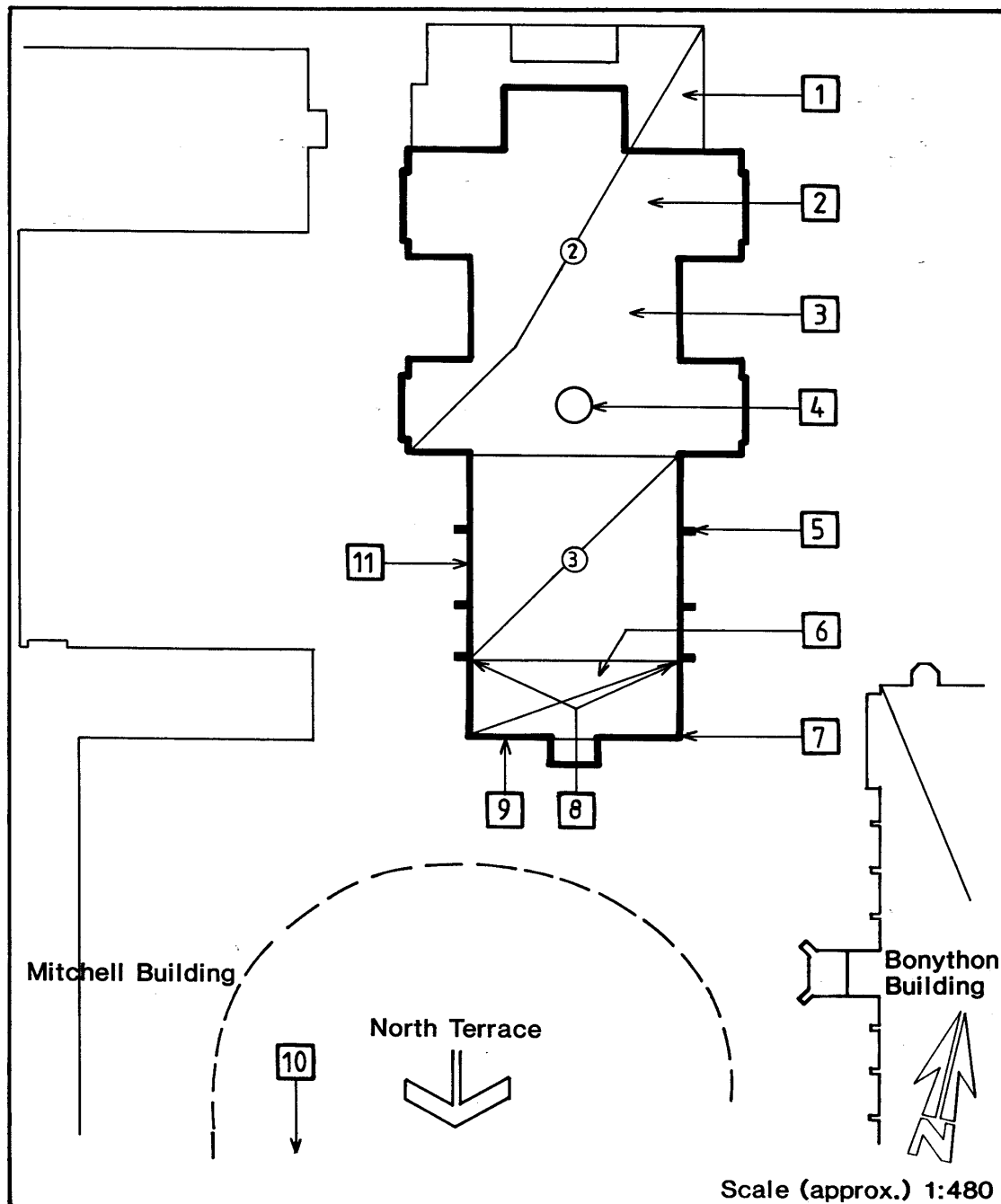


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Item ELDER HALL, UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

Building N^o

Address North Terrace

122002

NOTES:

1. Hammered sandstone and concrete block addition.
2. Cathedral organ.
3. Substantial hammer-beam timber roof structure.
4. Spire and finial.
5. Buttressing.
6. Refurbished interior (approximately 1977). Note: Timber panelling.
7. Bartizans at the angles.
8. Note: Turrets and finials.
9. Tooled ashlar sandstone with rock faced sandstone plinth and detailing.
10. Rock faced sandstone and cast iron fence along North Terrace included in curtilage.
11. Arched leadlight windows.