

**BETTER HERITAGE INFORMATION
SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE
Former Our Boys' Institute Building (Façade)**



Former Our Boys' Institute Building (Façade) SHP 10890, 1897.

Source: SLSA PRG-631-2-497

ENTRY IN THE REGISTER

Description or notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with either the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978* or the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

The South Australian Heritage Council may correct errors or inaccuracies in the Entry in the Register in accordance with s21 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*.

NAME: Former Our Boys' Institute Building (Façade) **PLACE NO.:** 10890

ADDRESS: 223 Wakefield Street
Adelaide SA 5000
CT 5799/369 F181570 A728
Hundred of Adelaide

CONFIRMED IN THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE REGISTER:

24 July 1980

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Additional information provided as a part of the content of the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with s14(6) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993* 'hold information in association with the Register'.

KNOWN AS: Former Our Boys' Institute (façade) [including Wakefield Street Road Reserve façade projections attached to Former Our Boys' Institute]

ADDRESS Karna Country

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Former Our Boys' Institute Building (Façade) demonstrates the emergence of youth-oriented organisations in South Australia during the second half of the nineteenth century. Completed in 1897, the building served as the bespoke headquarters of the Our Boys' Institute (OBI), a voluntary youth organisation established in 1888 that provided education, welfare services and recreational opportunities for boys aged 13 to 18. Additionally, the building's facade is an outstanding representative of the Victorian Free Gothic style of architecture. Designed by Adelaide architect Frederick W. Dancker, the façade demonstrates many key attributes of the style, including the exploitation of Venetian sources, rich patterning and an eclectically modelled façade divided into bays.

INDICATIVE CRITERIA (under section 16 of the Heritage Places Act 1993)

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history

Multiple youth-oriented organisations emerged in South Australia during the second half of the nineteenth century, notably the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the Boys' Brigade and the Our Boys' Institute (OBI). Their emergence relates to the introduction of compulsory education in the mid-1870s as well as labour legislation that decreased working hours for some industries. Moralists feared a lack of sectarian instruction in public schools and additional free time would leave young people susceptible to nefarious influences. In response, such organisations were established to provide an alternative mechanism for the inculcation of religious values and to alleviate idleness through the provision of leisure activities and practical education.

The OBI formed in 1888 as a subbranch of the YMCA. The organisation sought to cater to the physical, intellectual, and moral well-being of boys aged 13 to 18 years of age.

In 1894, the OBI separated from the YMCA and established its own headquarters on Wakefield Street. The bespoke building, designed by Adelaide architect F.W. Dancker and completed in 1897, was three storeys and featured classrooms, a reading room, photo room, double-storey gymnasium with a mezzanine running track, and swimming baths. The OBI operated out of the building until the 1960s when it amalgamated with the Youth Clubs Association of South Australia and moved operations to Woodville.

While the YMCA originated in England, the OBI was a South Australian initiative. Accordingly, the building demonstrates an important aspect of the state's early social and cultural life. It is a fitting South Australian example of the formation of private education and welfare organisations for youths during the nineteenth century.

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics

The Former Our Boys' Institute Building (Façade) is an outstanding and highly intact example of Victorian Free Gothic architecture in South Australia, demonstrating many of the key attributes of the style.

Key characteristics of Victorian Free Gothic architecture demonstrated by the Former Our Boys' Institute Building (Façade) include:

- Free adaptation of Gothic elements for a secular building,
- Exploitation of European, in particular secular Venetian sources,
- Use of traditional and newly available materials (iron, glass and concrete),
- Stone favoured for walling material,
- Rich patterning,
- Storeys differentiated by different decorative treatments,
- Façade divided into bays,
- Use of stucco,
- Depressed pointed arches,
- Exuberantly and eclectically modelled façade.

SITE PLAN

Former Our Boys' Institute Building (Façade)
223 Wakefield Street, Adelaide SA 5000

PLACE NO.: 10890



Former Our Boys' Institute (Façade), 223 Wakefield Street, Adelaide SA 5000
(CT 5799/369 F181570 A728, Hundred of Adelaide, including Wakefield Street Road Reserve
façade projections attached to Former Our Boys' Institute (Façade)*

N ↑

LEGEND

- Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
- Existing State Heritage Place(s)
- Outline of Elements of Significance for State Heritage Place

* Red outline is indicative of elements of significance, noting imperfect alignment of aerial imagery with parcel cadastre.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Symmetrical sandstone façade in a Victorian Free Gothic style with a bluestone plinth. The façade is divided vertically into three emphasised bays with a recessed central bay, as well as horizontally by decorative banding at each floor level, with distinct detailing to each storey. The top of the façade rises above the main body of the building forming a solid parapet concealing a half-gabled hip roof. The façade returns on each side to a length of approximately 5 metres and is rendered (render not significant fabric).

Additional features of each façade storey include:

Ground storey:

- Rusticated sandstone masonry, including quoins, atop a bluestone plinth,
- Pilasters of rusticated sandstone to central bay with double-door entrance under a semi-circular arch,
- Arched hood moulding supported on bosses of acanthus leaves and surmounted by an inflexed finial,
- Central cartouche containing the Our Boys' Institute monogram set in the middle of the inflexed finial with foliate bosses on either side,
- Central pilasters topped with an ogee, three-centred arched finials atop each,
- Entablature of foliate frieze atop a decorative architrave supported by curved brackets,
- Rectangular windows with horizontal mullions and stucco surrounds,
- Foundation stone to western bay.

First storey:

- Cut and squared ashlar sandstone with rusticated sandstone quoins,
- String course through the middle of the central bay,
- Stucco lancet arch windows incorporating Tuscan pilasters,
- Geometric nailhead pattern above paired arched windows at side bays.

Second storey:

- Venetian style loggia across the length of the central bay with abbreviated sections decorating the double windows on either flank,
- Arcade of trefoils, quatrefoils and pointed trefoil arches atop Corinthian columns,
- Side bays constructed of cut and squared ashlar sandstone with rusticated quoins,
- Upper cornice with cyma reversa brackets and dentils.

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include:

- Victorian Free Gothic façade,
- Depth of 7 metres behind façade.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include:

- Adabco entrance canopy/portico and signage,
- 2005 rear addition,
- Render over brick return walls.
- National Trust plaque

HISTORY OF THE PLACE**Tarntanya**

The Adelaide Plains within which the city and parklands are situated are the traditional lands of the Kaurna People. Before the arrival of European settlers, Kaurna people skilfully managed the land of the Adelaide Plains for hundreds of generations and maintained a deep knowledge of the environment. Teaching young people was a central part of Kaurna life and understanding the environment was important for more than just food, shelter, tools and medicine. Kaurna spirituality recognises the connectedness of people and culture with the worlds of plants, animals and stars.¹

Colonisation disrupted the Kaurna way of life. By 1850, Kaurna experienced a dramatic decline in population due to the introduction of violence and disease, the survivors experiencing dispossession and disruption to their way of life.² It was not until the Second World War that the Kaurna population began to grow again. The repeal of restrictive legislative provisions in the early 1960s enabled Kaurna people to move more freely back to country where they were able to seek employment and education in Adelaide and to live near their families.³

The YMCA and the Rise of Voluntary Youth Organisations in South Australia

Voluntary youth organisations emerged in South Australia during the second half of the nineteenth century.⁴ Such groups strove to develop the physical, intellectual, and moral well-being of youths through leisure activities and practical education.⁵ South Australia's first youth organisation, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), stemmed from the British labour movement's 1840s campaign to shorten working hours, driven by factory workers and shop assistants.

Critics of the movement claimed that young men would spend increased free time in 'dissipation'.⁶ In response, in June 1844, a group of drapers' apprentices from retailer Hitchcock, Rogers & Co., London met to form a society for their mutual improvement, which they called the YMCA. The apprentices used the YMCA to demonstrate that

workers could use their spare time virtuously which in turn supported the case for shorter working hours.⁷

The YMCA was non-sectarian, apolitical and based on the Christian faith and promoted healthy recreation, personal development and youth leadership.⁸ The organisation spread across Europe, and in February 1850 the first Australian branch was formed in Adelaide. The branch's inaugural public meeting brought together 50 young men.⁹ However, it closed three years later following the departure of many members to the Victorian goldfields.¹⁰

The perceived need for such organisations in South Australia was reignited in the 1870s as working hours decreased for some industries and compulsory state elementary education for children aged 7 to 13 was introduced. Previously, churches and private individuals were the primary educational providers in the colony.¹¹ The *Education Act 1875* stipulated secular instruction and forbade sectarian or denominational teaching.¹² The Act also only required children to attend school for four and a half hours a day, for a minimum of seventy days in each half-year.

Some feared that the remaining time would leave adolescents with 'little purpose'.¹³ The advent of gas lighting was also considered to have increased the temptations of the streets at night for boys and girls who would normally have remained at home after hours, safe from the 'contaminating' influences of the city's thoroughfares and 'dirty' habits such as cheap cigarettes.¹⁴

Christian groups viewed youth organisations as a solution, not only in their ability to continue religious instruction, but also as a means of keeping youth off the streets. Accordingly, the YMCA was reestablished in 1879 with the support of an influential group of city clergy and businessmen.

Our Boys' Institute: 'Prevention better than cure'

'Boys work' at the YMCA began in 1884 with weekly religious meetings for boys. In 1888, the Association established the Our Boys' Institute (OBI) for boys aged between 13 and 18.¹⁵ Like the YMCA, the mission of the Institute was to provide leisure activities and practical educational opportunities in the hope of preventing boys from turning to lives of delinquency.¹⁶ The OBI's motto was 'Prevention better than cure' and the program had a strong religious element, evidenced by its Bible classes. Other activities included bookkeeping, shorthand, drawing, elocution, carpentry, sport, debating, choral societies and camps.¹⁷ In its first year, the membership fee was one shilling per quarter, with the cost of classes either included in membership, or an extra eighteenpence a quarter.¹⁸

The Institute recorded 150 members by August 1888, mostly of 'lads' that had left school and were employed in shops and warehouses.¹⁹ The *Our Boys Magazine*, written and illustrated by the boys themselves, had also commenced publication.

Boys' camps were held frequently, often in Victor Harbor, along the River Murray near Murray Bridge and at Milang. The Institute acquired permanent grounds at Victor Harbor in the early twentieth century to host the annual Easter and Christmas camps, building a large hall on the premises in 1936.²⁰

Origins of the OBI Building

For the first eight years, the OBI operated from the basement of the YMCA's premises in Gawler Place.²¹ On 5 November 1894, the OBI split from its parent organisation to move to more suitable premises to help make the OBI 'one of the biggest powers for good that Adelaide possesses.'²² £4,000 was the estimated cost of necessary land, building and furniture.²³ While raising sufficient funds, the Institute rented part of John Dunn and Co.'s stores in Freeman Street for its activities.²⁴

In June 1897, six trustees of the OBI purchased a site on part of Town Acres 348 and 349 for £600.²⁵ Funds to build the OBI were raised through public subscription and fundraising events and concerts.²⁶ By mid-1896, £3,200 had been raised.²⁷

In August, tenders were called to construct the OBI building, designed by Adelaide architect F. W. Dancker.²⁸ The design of the OBI building is influenced by gothic architecture and drew inspiration from the Chicago Athletic Association building (1893), which in turn was based on the Doge's Palace in Venice.²⁹ The construction contract was won by stonemason and builder William Rogers.³⁰

The ground floor consisted of a boardroom, secretary's office, three classrooms, a large room for night school, a photo room, a lavatory and a large reading room. On the first floor was a double-storey gymnasium with an elevated running track. There was a caretaker's room on the first floor and shower baths, large dressing room and lockers on the second. Construction of the swimming bath commenced in September 1897 and was opened on 25 November, open to the public, it was located at the rear of the building. A carpenter's shop, a smithy and a kitchen were also located in the yard.³¹ The building would allow the OBI to increase its membership from 500 to a forecasted 1,000 – 1,200.

The foundation stone was laid by Lady Victoria Buxton on 10 October 1896 and the OBI building was officially declared open by Governor Sir Thomas Fowell on 23 February 1897.³² A basketball match between the OBI and the YMCA was held as a part of the four-day-long opening festivities, apparently marking the first time the sport had been played in Australia.³³

Various organisations and businesses contributed to OBI's activities at the new OBI Building. The Sunbeam Society provided the OBI with books for the library, the Employee Bureau hired boys from the OBI, the Camp Savings Bank taught the boys 'to be thrifty' and sponsored some of the boys to attend Easter camps, the Advice Bureau helped 'numberless boys' in their physical difficulties, and medical

professionals gave free advice for a range of cases.³⁴ The new premises also allowed night classes to commence as well as gospel services, concerts and demonstrations. By this time, the membership fee was 6 shillings per annum.³⁵

Operations at the OBI Building

The swimming baths remained popular amongst the public until 1922, when they were closed for hygiene reasons. To replace this facility, a concrete bathing shed was erected for the Institute at Henley Beach.³⁶

In 1938, to celebrate the OBI's fiftieth jubilee, the OBI made almost £4,000 worth of improvements to the building. An extension designed by architect Gordon Brown was added to the southern side,³⁷ covering up part of the swimming baths and doubling the gymnasium space. £1,000 was spent concreting the gymnasium floors to create a public skating rink, 'believed to be the biggest of its kind in Adelaide.'³⁸

Brown also designed a new timber hall which was built on the southern perimeter of the main building in 1952, along with gendered locker rooms.³⁹ By 1959, this area had been converted into six squash courts with a central gallery corridor to a plan by architect John Tulloch who was serving as Director of the OBI at the time. The rooms closest to the building's front façade on the second floor were turned into a caretaker's flat.⁴⁰

Much like the YMCA, by the early 1960s the OBI's religious focus shifted to become more sports-orientated. The OBI amalgamated with the Youth Clubs Association of South Australia (Y.C.A. of S.A.), forming a new body known as the South Australian Sports Club (O.B.I.) Incorporated. The OBI disposed of the Wakefield Street building, erecting new headquarters at Woodville (now the St Clair Recreation Centre) in 1962.⁴¹

Subsequent History

The OBI transferred its Wakefield Street building to the Minister of Education in August 1961, when it was occupied by the Education Department's Technical Division. The interior was upgraded in the early 1970s to provide adequate office accommodation and the 1952 extension was removed and replaced.⁴² A concrete floor slab was installed between the first and second storeys where the gymnasium once stood. In 1980, the façade was stabilised and repaired by the Public Buildings Department to prevent further deterioration of the fabric.

The building was occupied by various educational bodies until 2000, when it was acquired by a new owner for use as a boutique hotel. Towards this end, in 2006 internal and external alterations were made to the building. Conservation works were also undertaken, particularly to the masonry.⁴³ An entrance canopy was installed on the building's eastern side around 2010.⁴⁴ The swimming baths are still located under the ground floor of the rear extension.

Frederick W. Dancker

Born in South Australia in 1852, Frederick William Dancker undertook architectural training in Melbourne before being articled to Adelaide architect Daniel Garlick in the 1870s. In 1880, he opened his own architectural firm where he worked alone until 1905, when he took on his son Eric as an articled pupil.⁴⁵ Eric was admitted into partnership in 1913 and the practice was thereafter known as F.W. Dancker and Son.

One of F. W. Dancker's first commissions was an institute building for Macclesfield in the Adelaide Hills (LHP) and in August 1883 he designed the Metropolitan Hotel (SHP 13409) on Grote Street. Some other buildings designed by Dancker include the Queen's Home maternity hospital (Queen Victoria Hospital) at Rose Park (SHP12728) and St Paul's Lutheran Church in Hahndorf (SHP 13133). The façade of the OBI building displays his typical eclecticism and his predilection for abundant details.⁴⁶ Dancker is also known for his residential work.⁴⁷

Aboriginal Cultural Considerations

The *Heritage Places Act 1993* makes provision for the identification, recording and conservation of places and objects of non-Aboriginal heritage significance. The protection and preservation of Aboriginal heritage is provided for under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*. Contact the Aboriginal Heritage Unit for listings.

CHRONOLOGY

Year	Event
1844	George Williams founds the YMCA in London.
1850	The Adelaide branch of the YMCA is formed.
1851	15 March: A committee of young men draw up the constitution and rules for organisation and government of the 'Adelaide Branch of the London YMCA'
	The <i>Education Act 1851</i> is assented to promote education in the state.
1852	Frederick William Dancker (1852-1936) is born.
1853	The Adelaide branch of the YMCA closes due to the departure of many members to the Victorian goldfields.
1865	The South Australian Gas Company installs gas lighting around Adelaide.
1875	Compulsory elementary education for children aged 7 to 13 is introduced under the <i>Education Act 1875</i> , which repeals the 1851 Act.
1878	28 November: A public meeting of men is held to discuss resuscitating the YMCA. A constitution is drawn up and signed by 535 men.
1879	The Adelaide branch of the YMCA is reestablished.
1880	Dancker opens his own architectural firm.

- The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) is founded by Mary Colton at the Wesleyan Methodist Church, Pirie Street.
- 1882 Part of Town Acres 348 and 349 are acquired by the South Australian Company (CT 397/141).
- 1884 The first permanent headquarters of the YMCA, at the corner of Grenfell Street and Gawler Place, opens.
- 1886 Dancker becomes an inaugural member of the South Australian Institute of Architects.
- The Boys' Brigade is formed in South Australia.
- 1888 **May: Our Boys' Institute is established as a sub branch of the YMCA.**
 August: Part of Town Acres 348 and 349 are acquired by Thomas Graves (524/165).
 October: The OBI reports a membership of 210 boys.⁴⁸
- 1889 The YWCA establishes a Girls' Institute (also known as the Young Girls' Institute and Our Girls' Institute).
- 1891 Free elementary education is granted in South Australia.
- 1894 November 5: The OBI separates from the YMCA.
- 1896 May: The OBI raises £1,280 in donations.⁴⁹
19 June: Land facing Wakefield Street purchased for the OBI (CT 610/32).
7 August: Tenders for the erection of the initial section of the building are advertised by architect Dancker.
September: William Rogers' building tender for £4,300 is accepted by Dancker.
21 September: Plans are approved by the Adelaide City Council.
Foundation stone is laid by Lady Victoria Buxton.
- 1897 **23 February: The OBI Building opens.**
 24 February: A basketball match, reputedly the first in Australia, is played between the OBI and the YMCA in the new gymnasium.
September: The swimming baths are constructed by Messrs. Ling and Son and opened by Lady Buxton, on 25 November. The baths were constructed of iron and stone, and measured 47 feet by 115 feet.
- 1898 The OBI becomes an incorporated body.
 The OBI and YMCA agree that boys at the age of 18 should automatically transfer to the YMCA.
- 1900 **Ownership of the property is transferred to the OBI.**
 The first permanent headquarters of the YWCA opens in Hindmarsh Square.
- 1905 Dancker's son, Eric, joins his fathers practice.
- 1907 Approximately 8,500 boys have participated in the OBI.⁵⁰

- 1908 The first free state high school in Australia, Adelaide High School, opens.
A branch of the Scouts is established in South Australia.
- 1913 Eric Dancker becomes partner at the firm. The firm becomes F.W. Dancker and Son.
- 1915 Full time compulsory school attendance is introduced for children aged between 7 and 14.
- 1927 Freestanding bathroom facility is constructed adjacent to the swimming baths at the rear of the property.**
- 1931 Dancker retires from architectural practice.
- 1938 The building is valued at £10,000.⁵¹**
Extension added to the rear of the building. Works include enclosing part of the swimming baths and installing a new concrete floor in the gymnasium for a skating rink.
- 1949 The skating floor is removed from the Exhibition Building, North Terrace, making the Our Boys' Institute the only roller-skating rink in Adelaide.
- 1952 Swimming baths are fully enclosed. An addition is constructed from temporary lightweight walls which are later replaced with masonry. The toilet and changeroom facilities are upgraded.**
- 1958 The 1952 extension is converted to squash courts.**
- 1960 The third floor is remodelled into a caretaker's residence. Tiered seating is installed above the toilet facilities in the club room.**
- 1961 August: The building is sold by the OBI to the Minister of Education.
- 1962 The OBI amalgamates with the Youth Clubs Association of South Australia and erects new headquarters at Woodville (now the St Clair Recreation Centre).
- 1963 School leaving age is raised from 14 to 15 years.
- 2000 Building acquired by Adabco Lodgings Pty. Ltd.
- 2006 The building is converted to a lodging house and offices from an educational/office building. Internal and external alterations are made to the building to accommodate the change of use. The architectural plans are prepared by Jackman Parken Evans (JPE) Architects.
Conservation works are undertaken including cleaning of stone and render, re-pointing, salt damp remediation, repair of cracking, removal of air conditioning units and conduits on the east and west walls, and repainting (DA 311/2006).
- c.2010 Adabco install an entrance canopy on the buildings' eastern side (DA/693/09).

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- Young Men's Christian Association of Adelaide. *At milestone 50: a brief history of the YMCA in Adelaide from 1850 to 1930, including the fiftieth annual report*. Adelaide: YMCA, 1930.

Legislation

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Advertiser

Christian Colonist

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Evening Journal

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Mail

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Development Applications and Reports

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Jensen Planning and Design. *Lodging House Development: 223 Wakefield Street, Adelaide*. Planning report prepared for Jackman Parken Evans. 12 April 2006.

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Julie Collins. 'Architects and Builders of South Australia – 3, Dancker, Frederick William, 1852 – 1936.' *Heritage South Australia Newsletter*, Department of Environment and Heritage, March 2007, pp12-14.

BHI Summary of State Heritage Place: 10890

Confirmed in the South Australian Heritage Register on 24 July 1980

Draft BHI SSHP for Consultation 6 August 2026 to 6 November 2026

14 of 22

Pamphlets

Laughton, R.W. 'What it Means to Bring Boys to Christ.' *The Boy Problem*. Adelaide: Our Boy's Institute, n.d.

Our Boys Institute. *Constitution of Our Boys' Institute (Incorporated)*, n.d.

Rhodes, Thomas. 'The State Boy.' *The Boy Problem*. Adelaide: Our Boy's Institute, n.d.

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SITE DETAILS

Former Our Boys' Institute Building (Façade)

PLACE NO.: 10890

223 Wakefield Street, Adelaide SA 5000

FORMER NAME:	Our Boys' Institute
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Three-storey building façade and return in a Victorian Free Gothic style.
HISTORIC THEME/S	Theme 6: Developing Social and Cultural Life (Supporting and building communities) 6.2 Making education available to all South Australians 6.4 Forming community organisations/Developing cultural and social organisations 6.5 Participating in sport, leisure and recreation (including eating, drinking and holidays)
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1897
REGISTER STATUS:	Nomination: 13 September 1978 Provisional Entry: 26 July 1979 Confirmation: 24 July 1980
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS:	Not registered
CURRENT USE:	Adabco Boutique Hotel 2000 – present
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Education building and office 1961 – 2000 Our Boys' Institute Building 1897 - 1961
ARCHITECT:	Frederick W. Dancker
BUILDER:	William Rogers 1896-1897
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Adelaide
LOCATION:	Street No.: 223 Street Name: Wakefield Street Town/Suburb: Adelaide

LAND DESCRIPTION:	Post Code:	5000
	Title	CT 5799/369 F181570 A728
	Reference:	
	Hundred:	Adelaide

Draft for Consultation

PHOTOS

Former Our Boys' Institute Building (Façade)

PLACE NO.: 10890

223 Wakefield Street, Adelaide SA 5000



The Our Boys' Institute (OBI) Building, 1897. The building's architect, F.W. Dancker, is standing in the main entranceway.

Source: SLA PRG-631-2-497



Members of the OBI about to disembark a riverboat during a camp at Murray Bridge c.1910.

Source: SLA B 38201

Former Our Boys' Institute Building (Façade)
223 Wakefield Street, Adelaide SA 5000

PLACE NO.: 10890



An OBI camp at Victor Harbor, c.1920.

Source: SLSA PRG-180-1-22-56



A skating demonstration on the OBI rink in 1939.

Source: SLSA B-7798-538

Former Our Boys' Institute Building (Façade)

PLACE NO.: 10890

223 Wakefield Street, Adelaide SA 5000



The OBI Building (Façade).

Source: Adabco Boutique, n.d.



The OBI Building in 2023.

Source: Google Maps, Aug 2023

REVISIONS

Date	Changes

¹ Lewis Yerloburka O'Brien and Many Paul, 'Kurna People,' SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia (accessed 24 February 2025), <https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/kurna-people/>.

² State Library of South Australia, 'Aboriginal people of South Australia: Kurna,' South Australian Aboriginal people and languages (accessed 24 February 2025), https://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/Aboriginal_peopleSA/Kurna; Knowledge Project, 'Modern History,' (accessed 24 February 2025), <https://knowledgeproject.com.au/modern-history>.

³ 'Kurna People,' SA History Hub.

⁴ David Maunders, *Keeping them off the streets: A history of voluntary youth organizations in Australia 1850 – 1980* (Coburg: Phillip Institute of Technology, Centre for Youth and Community Studies, 1984), p.11.

⁵ Young Men's Christian Association of Adelaide, *At milestone 50: a brief history of the YMCA in Adelaide from 1850 to 1930, including the fiftieth annual report* (Adelaide: YMCA, 1930), p.20.

⁶ Maunders, *Keeping them off the streets*, p.60.

⁷ Maunders, *Keeping them off the streets*, p.60.

⁸ David Hilliard, 'Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA),' *The Wakefield Companion to South Australian History*, ed. Wilfred Prest (Adelaide: Wakefield Press, 2001), p.604.

⁹ Young Men's Christian Association of Adelaide, *At milestone 50*, p.4.

¹⁰ Hilliard, 'Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA),' p.604.

¹¹ Craig Campbell, 'Education,' in Wakefield, p.162.

¹² *Education Act 1875*, assented 12 October 1875.

¹³ Thomas Rhodes, 'The State Boy,' *The Boy Problem* (Adelaide: Our Boy's Institute), p.13. And Craig Campbell, 'Education,' Wakefield, p.162.

¹⁴ R.W. Laughton, 'What it Means to Bring Boys to Christ,' *The Boy Problem* (Adelaide: Our Boy's Institute), p.16.

¹⁵ Hilliard, 'Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA),' p.604.

¹⁶ State Library of South Australia, 'Why not be strong?,' SA Memory, 2010, <https://www.samemory.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?c=1743> (accessed 29 August 2024). And *The Express and Telegraph*, 'Advertising,' 8 January 1889, p.2.

¹⁷ *The Cyclopaedia of South Australia*, Vol. 2, ed. H. T. Burgess LL.D. (Adelaide: Cyclopaedia Company (Alfred G. Selway), 1909), p.61.

¹⁸ *Christian Colonist*, 'Our Boys' Institute,' 12 October 1888, p.6.

¹⁹ *Evening Journal*, 'Religious News,' 11 August 1888, p.5.

²⁰ *News*, 'New Concert Hall for Victor Harbor,' 12 February 1936, p.9.

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BHI Summary of State Heritage Place: 10890

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