

## HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

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**NAME:** Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex  
(façades)

**PLACE:** 26609

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**ADDRESS:** Karna Country  
4 Milner Street, Hindmarsh

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This heritage assessment considers that the place meets criterion (e). Refer to Summary of State Heritage Place for final approved wording, including criteria statements.



**Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades)**

Source: DEW Files, 21 February 2025

### ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

#### Statement of Heritage Significance:

The Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) is an outstanding example of Art Deco architecture in South Australia. Designed by South Australian architect Chris A. Smith in 1936 to visually unify an existing civic building with a substantial extension, the Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) articulates many key attributes of the style, including vertical emphasis; dominant symmetrical features; rendered Portland cement facades; decoration suggesting, but stylised away from, historical precedents; a skyline featuring receding steps; emphatic vertical fin-like elements; and parallel line, zig-zag and fern motifs.

## Relevant South Australian Historical Themes

The Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) demonstrates the following themes and subthemes in *Historic Themes for South Australia* (2022):

### 4. Building Settlements, Towns and Cities

4.7 Marking significant phases in development of SA's settlements, towns and cities (including key town planning initiatives and architectural styles)

### Comparative Analysis:

The Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) is associated with interwar Art Deco architecture.

Internationally, no consistent terminology exists surrounding the various styles of popular modern-idiom architecture created during the interwar period.<sup>1</sup> In 1989, Apperly et al identified three modern Australian architectural styles which appeared between 1914 and 1940, that they called 'Interwar Art Deco,'<sup>2</sup> 'Interwar Functionalism'<sup>3</sup> and 'Interwar Skyscraper Gothic.'<sup>4</sup>

Subsequently in 2009, Carol Cosgrove completed the first and to date only comprehensive study of the popular modern architecture of the interwar period in South Australia. Cosgrove's findings were published in the report 'Art Deco: its place in South Australia's architectural heritage'<sup>5</sup> and the monograph *Moving to the Modern: Art Deco in South Australian Architecture*.<sup>6</sup>

Most scholarly writers including Cosgrove, Apperly et al, Thorne and Meikle identify at least two key, consecutive strands of popular interwar architecture.<sup>7</sup> The first strand appeared in the mid-1930s and was characterised by vertical emphasis and extensive use of highly stylised decoration, sometimes drawing loosely upon, but not directly imitating, historical architectural precedents.<sup>8</sup> The Frontage of Shop (former Sands & McDougall Pty. Ltd. building) (1934, SHP 26202) is an exemplar of this strand. The Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) (subject of this assessment) is also consistent with this first strand. The second strand appeared in the mid-to-late 1930s and was characterised by horizontal emphasis, 'sweeping curves'<sup>9</sup> and clean lines with minimal decoration. This strand is exemplified by the former Port Adelaide Council Chambers, (1938, SHP 10931).

Cosgrove implicitly refers to the first, predominantly vertical strand as 'Art Deco,' corresponding with Apperly et al's Interwar Art Deco, and explicitly refers to the second, predominantly horizontal strand as 'Streamline Moderne' or 'Moderne', corresponding loosely with Apperly et al's Interwar Functionalism.<sup>10</sup>

Some writers including Cosgrove also use the phrase Art Deco as an umbrella term for both the vertical and streamlined styles. Meanwhile *Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture* features conflicting entries on both Art Deco<sup>11</sup> and Moderne;<sup>12</sup> the latter entry also considers Moderne to be an umbrella term for both.

This assessment draws upon the findings of both Apperly et al and Cosgrove, distinguishing between the vertical emphasis of interwar Art Deco architecture and the predominantly horizontal emphasis of interwar streamlined architecture.

Features of interwar Art Deco architecture typical in South Australia include:

- vertical emphasis,
- symmetrical massing and/or dominant symmetrical features,
- rendered Portland cement façades,
- stylised decoration suggesting historical precedents,
- concentration of decoration towards the top of the building,
- polished granite, marble or similar base,
- monumental entrance,
- skylines, silhouettes or other elements featuring receding 'steps',
- emphatic vertical fin-like elements,
- parallel line motif,
- zigzag or chevron motifs,
- fern motif,
- sunburst motif,
- decorative low-relief friezes and/or spandrels,
- narrow, steel-framed windows,
- ornamental metal window grilles.<sup>13</sup>

In South Australia, relatively few places remain to exemplify interwar Art Deco architecture. Surviving examples exhibiting a range of features typical of the style include:

- Frontage of Shop (former Sands & McDougall Pty. Ltd. Building), 1933, 64 King William Street, Adelaide (SHP 26502, listed 2020), architects Philip R. Claridge in association with Norman G. Fisher; South Australia's earliest known surviving example of interwar Art Deco architecture,
- West Torrens District Council Chambers, 1934, 165-171 Sir Donald Bradman Drive, Hilton (LHP), architect H. H. Cowell,
- City of Mitcham Council Chambers, 1934-54, 1934, 131 Belair Road, Torrens Park (SHP 26304, listed 2013), architect Dean W. Berry,
- Former Royal Exchange Assurance Company Building (façade), 1936, 31 Gilbert Place, Adelaide, architects Philip R. Claridge and Associates,
- Lobethal Institute and Cinema (Lobethal Centennial Hall), 1936, 30-36 Main Street, Lobethal (SHP 18494, listed 2001), architect Chris A. Smith,
- Local Government Building – Town Hall, 1936-1937, 2 Milner Street, Hindmarsh (SHP 11794, listed 23 November 1989) (subject of this re-assessment), architect Chris A. Smith; only the northern half of the façade was gazetted at the time of listing,
- Former Marion Council Chambers, 1937, 290 Sturt Road, Marion (LHP), architect Chris A. Smith,

- Bank – Savings Bank of South Australia, 1939-1943, 97 King William Street, Adelaide (SHP 13384, listed 1986), architects Eric H. McMichael & Harris.



Frontage of Shop (former Sands & McDougall Pty. Ltd. Building), 1933 (left) and • Bank – Savings Bank of South Australia, 1939-1943 (right)

Source: Reddit (left) Google Street View (right)



West Torrens District Council Chambers, 1934 (left) and Lobethal Centennial Hall, 1936 (right)

Source: Google Street View

**Assessment against Criteria under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. All Criteria have been assessed using the 2024 Guidelines.**

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

*This criterion has not been considered as part of this assessment.*

**(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.**

*This criterion has not been considered as part of this assessment.*

**(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.**

*This criterion has not been considered as part of this assessment.*

**(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.**

*This criterion has not been considered as part of this assessment.*

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

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

*The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its times. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments in design would qualify, if the place clearly shows them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected.*

*Places would not normally be considered under this criterion if their degree of achievement could not be demonstrated, or where their integrity was diminished so that the achievement, while documented, was no longer apparent in the place, or simply because they were the work of a designer who demonstrated innovation elsewhere.*

Created in 1936-1937 to unify an existing civic building with a substantial extension and designed by South Australian architect Chris A. Smith, the Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) is an outstanding example of Art Deco architecture in South Australia. The place articulates many key attributes of the style, including:

- vertical emphasis achieved through the extensive employment of fluted pilasters,
- symmetrical massing and dominant symmetrical features, notably the Port Road elevation and former picture theatre entry,
- rendered Portland cement façades,
- stylised decoration suggesting historical precedents, such as fluted shafts and symmetrical fern motifs in capitals suggesting Ionic pilasters; zig-zag motif in frieze suggesting ancient Egyptian architecture; and extensive use of pyramid or ziggurat-like stepped elements,
- concentration of decoration near the top of the building,
- ashlar terrazzo base courses,
- monumental entrances,
- a skyline featuring receding 'steps',
- emphatic vertical fin-like elements, notably on the Port Road elevation and on the former picture theatre entry,
- decorative low-relief friezes and spandrels,
- parallel line motifs found in Milner Street parapet, monumental entrances, and elsewhere,

- zigzag motifs, found in frieze,
- fern motifs, found on capitals and central spandrel on Port Road elevation,
- narrow, steel-framed windows.

When compared to other places entered in the Register under criterion (e) as outstanding examples of Art Deco architecture in South Australia, such as Frontage of Shop (former Sands & McDougall Pty. Ltd. Building) (SHP 26502) and Lobethal Institute and Cinema (SHP 18494), the Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) is considered to demonstrate a similarly high degree of aesthetic accomplishment.

It is recommended that the nominated place **fulfils** criterion (e).

**(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual association for the community or a group within it.**

*This criterion has not been considered as part of this assessment.*

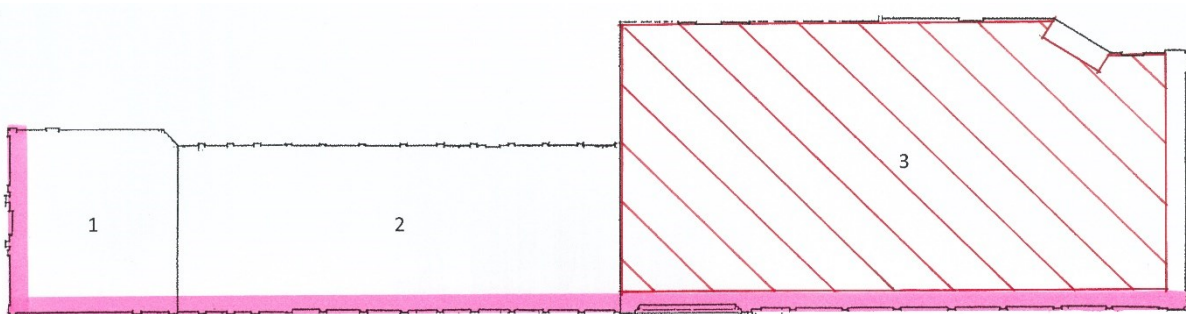
**(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.**

*This criterion has not been considered as part of this assessment.*

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Bounded by Port Road, Milner Street and Orsmond Street in Hindmarsh, the Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex was built in five key stages between c.1860 and 1937. The Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex comprises the following elements, all integrated into one large structure:

- former District Hall, Council Chambers and Institute Library (c.1860-1885),
- former Assembly Hall (1880-1881, extended 1921),
- former picture theatre including Milner Street facade (1936, largely demolished except for Milner Street and Orsmond Street elevations),
- refacing of Port Road and Milner Street elevations of former District Hall, Council Chambers, Institute Library and Assembly Hall buildings (1937).



**Indicative plan of the Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex, showing Port Road and Milner Street façades (magenta) and demolished elements (hatched red).**

1. Former District Hall, Council Chambers and Institute Library (c.1860-1885)
2. Former Assembly Hall (1880-1881, extended 1921)
3. Former picture theatre (1936, largely demolished except for Milner Street and Orsmond Street elevations)

Source: Adapted from DEW Files

The State Heritage Place comprises only the Port Road and Milner Street elevations of the former Complex. The northern part of the former Complex, standing on CT 5789/106 D52380 A3, forms a separate State Heritage Place, namely Local Government Building – Town Hall (SHP 11794).

The State Heritage Place, former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) comprises re-facings of existing stone and brick buildings erected between 1860 and 1921 (Port Road elevation and northern end of Milner Street elevation) and a brick and reinforced concrete wall built new in 1936 (southern end of Milner Street elevation).

The Port Road elevation is symmetrical and comprises 3 refaced bays of the c.1860-1885 former Council Chambers and Institute Library. The Milner Street elevation is asymmetrical and divided into four key sections:

- former District Hall, Council Chambers and Institute Library (4 bays, c.1860-1885 building refaced 1936-1937),
- former Assembly Hall (12 bays, 1880-1881, extended 1921) building, refaced 1936),
- former picture theatre entry (1 wide bay, built new 1936),
- former picture theatre hall (8 bays, including a narrower bay at the northern end, built new 1936).

Key external features include:

- ashlar terrazzo base courses,
- monumental entrance to Port Road elevation, comprising bevelled frame with receding steps to top rail; double door opening at ground level (retrofitted with window frame); rectangular window opening above; hood moulding with receding steps to top rail; and decorative central spandrel, featuring keystone, Greek key and fern motifs,
- parapet to Port Road elevation comprising a composition of receding steps and rising dentils with a central, vertical, curvilinear fin feature, composed in receding planes, with wave motif,
- welded steel lettering to parapet, spelling '1936 Town Hall'.
- double entrance at northern end of Milner Street elevation,
- pilasters with stylised capitals featuring fern motif,
- frieze featuring recessed parallel lines and geometric decoration with zig-zag motif,
- rectangular windows to ground floor of Council Chambers/Assembly Hall,
- arched windows to second storey of former Council Chambers/Assembly Hall,
- steel window frames,
- decorative spandrels featuring geometric decoration,
- cantilevered concrete awnings over former Council Chambers/Assembly Hall entrances, displaying horizontal flutes,
- rainheads and downpipes,

- monumental entrance to former picture theatre entry, comprising a composition of fin, trough and cove features, with geometric decoration to spandrel and frieze, recessed parallel lines, and implied, stylised quoins,
- rectangular window openings to second story of former picture theatre, with blind arches above (window frames not significant fabric),
- marble foundation stones (x2).

**Elements of Significance:**

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Elevations to Port Road and Milner Street,
- Short return on south-eastern elevation,
- Portland cement decoration,
- Ashlar terrazzo podium,
- Other original features including steel and timber window frames, cantilevered awnings, welded steel lettering, rainheads and downpipes, and foundation stones.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Roof structures,
- South-eastern wall of 1860-1886 building,
- South-western wall of 1936 picture theatre building,
- Interiors,
- Flag poles,
- Elements associated with 1998-2000 redevelopment, including awning over former picture theatre entrance.



## HISTORY

### The nineteenth century

Hindmarsh District Council was established in 1853 under the *District Councils Act 1852*. The Hindmarsh District Hall, a small single-storey stone and brick building located on the corner of Port Road and Milner Street, Hindmarsh, was completed by May 1860.<sup>14</sup>

On 1 October 1874, the District Council was dissolved, and the Corporation of the Town of Hindmarsh (hereafter Hindmarsh Corporation) was proclaimed by the Governor of South Australia, Anthony Musgrave. Deeming the District Hall to be 'altogether unsuited' to its requirements, the Hindmarsh Corporation sold the hall at auction on 13 March 1875, along with other assets of the former District Council. The Hindmarsh Corporation intended to use part of the proceeds to fund a purpose-built Town Hall.<sup>15</sup>

The District Hall was purchased by Pastor Thomas Lees on behalf of the Hindmarsh Institute Committee, established in c.1847.<sup>16</sup> The former District Hall thus became known as the Hindmarsh Institute Library but parts of the building were leased to the Hindmarsh Corporation to serve as their headquarters.<sup>17</sup>



**Former Hindmarsh District Hall as the Hindmarsh Institute Library, c.1881, showing original c.1860 stone and brick building with 1881 hall behind. Photograph heavily retouched in pencil and gauche.**

Source: SLSA B 4833

In 1879, the Institute Committee commissioned South Australian architect Thomas Frost to design additions in two stages, comprising a new hall and a second storey on the former District Hall. The hall, built by Hindmarsh builders James King & Son, opened on 15 August 1881.<sup>18</sup> The second stage, redesigned by Adelaide architects Whittell &

Wells and also built by James King & Son, opened on 3 June 1886.<sup>19</sup> These extensions allowed Institute and Corporation to coexist in the building and provided multipurpose facilities for the use of both organisations.

Completion of these works left the Institute Committee £1,500 in debt. In 1891, the Committee entered into an agreement with the Hindmarsh Corporation, in which the latter acquired debt and agreed to house the Hindmarsh Institute 'for all time,'<sup>20</sup> in exchange for the Institute building itself.<sup>21</sup> From June of that year, the former Hindmarsh Institute became known as the Hindmarsh Town Hall. By 1894, the hall auditorium had been extended with a stage, proscenium and basement replacing the semicircular platform.<sup>22</sup>

### **The early twentieth century**

Film exhibitors screened silent films at the Hindmarsh Town Hall from c.1910.<sup>23</sup> Following the end of the First World War, the Hindmarsh Corporation renovated the Hindmarsh Town Hall to improve its suitability for screening silent films. The hall itself was extensively reconstructed at a cost of £4,000,<sup>24</sup> doubling its overall capacity.<sup>25</sup> Adelaide newsagent-turned-picture theatre entrepreneur Daniel (Dan) Clifford (b. 1887 – d. 1942) loaned £3,000 of the total cost, in return for a ten-year lease on the auditorium and 4.5% interest.<sup>26</sup> This was the first of several instances where Clifford part-financed the building or rebuilding of suburban town halls to better accommodate motion picture screenings, in collaboration with local councils.

The Hindmarsh Town Hall auditorium reopened on 21 April 1920.<sup>27</sup> Afterwards, a new Hindmarsh Memorial Institute Hall (LHP) was built at 266 Port Road and opened on 15 July 1922, allowing the Hindmarsh Institute to relocate out of the Hindmarsh Town Hall, in turn making more space available for council accommodation.<sup>28</sup>

In 1927, an electric clock was installed near the top of the Port Road elevation of the Hindmarsh Town Hall, supplied and installed by F. W. Wagner of North Adelaide, at a cost of £100.<sup>29</sup> Unveiled on 12 November 1927, the clock was said to be legible from the Hindmarsh Bridge over the River Torrens.<sup>30</sup>



**Hindmarsh Town Hall, 1928.**

Source: SLSA B 4830

### **The Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex, 1936 – 1937**

By November 1934, Hindmarsh councillors were denouncing the existing Hindmarsh Town Hall 'an eyesore' and 'a disgrace'. That month, the Council passed a unanimous resolution, proposed by councillor and former Mayor Frank Keen Nieass (b. 1886 – d. 1967) to rebuild the Hindmarsh Town Hall by 1936. The rebuild was intended to celebrate both the State's centenary,<sup>31</sup> and the fiftieth jubilee of the building scheme completed in 1886. Nieass argued the project would 'promote business and employment' and that a new Town Hall on Port Road, 'one of the main highways of the State', would contribute to the 'dignity' of Hindmarsh.<sup>32</sup> The Council sought approval from Hindmarsh ratepayers in a poll, which occurred on 18 April 1936, before proceeding with rebuilding.<sup>33</sup>

Central to the project was the provision of improved facilities for screening motion pictures, which provided an important revenue stream for the Hindmarsh Corporation and the only regular income from the hall.<sup>34</sup> As the existing hall building was substantially narrower than typical purpose-built picture theatres of the late 1920s and early 1930s, and as neighbouring land was not available to widen the structure, the Hindmarsh Corporation chose to build a new, purpose-built picture theatre<sup>35</sup> on land immediately behind the existing hall.

Incumbent hall lessee Dan Clifford played an important role in the development of the project. He successfully negotiated with the Corporation of the City of Hindmarsh

to enable his preferred architect, the Adelaide-based picture theatre specialist Chris A. Smith, to design the complex, when the Hindmarsh Corporation had at first engaged Adelaide architects Evans, Bruer & Hall.<sup>36</sup> Clifford agreed to rent the theatre for two nights and one matinee each week for a term of 20 years at £24 per week. This totalled £1,248 per annum and largely covered the Corporation's annual repayments of £1,477 on a £20,000 loan used to finance the scheme.<sup>37</sup>

Like the 1880–1886 scheme, the 1936 scheme was also master-planned and then built in two stages. The picture theatre, which became known as the Town Hall, was built first. Unlike previous Corporation town halls built in collaboration with Clifford at Woodville (1927) and Thebarton (1928), which had flat, multipurpose ground floors in their auditoriums, the ground floor in the Hindmarsh Town Hall auditorium was slightly inclined, making it unsuitable for community activities requiring a flat floor, such as dancing.<sup>38</sup> The new Town Hall seated 2,050, including 700 in the upstairs dress circle gallery,<sup>39</sup> and 76 in side boxes.<sup>40</sup> Tenders for building the new town hall, and alterations to the existing hall, closed on 14 May 1936.<sup>41</sup>

A foundation stone was laid by the Mayor of Hindmarsh, John McInnes MP (b. c.1878 – d. 1950), on 27 June 1936.<sup>42</sup> The new Town Hall picture theatre was opened by the Governor of South Australia, Sir Winston Dugan, on the evening of 16 December 1936,<sup>43</sup> with a large marble plaque unveiled in the foyer to mark the occasion.

Afterwards, work began on renovating the existing building. The old Town Hall auditorium, which thereafter became known as the Assembly Hall, retained its flat, multi-purpose floor but was reduced by approximately one-third in size to accommodate council offices downstairs and a supper room upstairs,<sup>44</sup> replacing the 1918-1920 dress circle. These changes allowed the Hindmarsh Institute Library to return to accommodation in the Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex, while the Hindmarsh Memorial Institute Building at 266 Port Road became the property of the Returned Services League Hindmarsh Sub-Branch.<sup>45</sup>

Externally, the stone portico on the Port Road elevation was demolished, and the Port Road and Milner Street elevations of the existing building were rendered and decorated in an Art Deco style with 'Snowcrete' coloured Portland cement, supplied by Colton, Palmer and Preston, Limited.<sup>46</sup> This created a unified, stylistically consistent façade down the full 330-foot length of the complex along Milner Street. Modern styles such as Art Deco and streamlined styles were closely associated with modernity,<sup>47</sup> and most South Australian picture theatres built after 1934 were designed in such styles. The existing 1927 clock was retained on the Port Road elevation with new Arabic numerals. The completed complex was opened by Mayor McInnes on 28 June 1937.<sup>48</sup>



**Completed Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex, c.1938.**

Source: SLSA B 10328

### **Postwar years and fate**

In March 1947, Greater Union Theatres Limited acquired the lease over the new Town Hall, along with ownership of or leaseholds over other former D. Clifford Theatres Limited venues,<sup>49</sup> and subsequently advertised the venue as the Hindmarsh Odeon Theatre. It was used as a stage theatre during the March 1966 Adelaide Festival of Arts, and shortly afterwards was closed by Greater Union on 20 August 1966,<sup>50</sup> amid dwindling attendance due to competition from drive-in theatres and television.<sup>51</sup> Afterwards, the cinema was operated independently under various names.<sup>52</sup>

On 7 September 1975, a 'major fire'<sup>53</sup> caused substantial damage to the interior of the picture theatre. During 1979–1981, the Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex was renovated by Trojan Owen & Associates at a cost of \$285,000. These renovations involved substantial changes to the interior of the complex, including extensive removal of internal walling, and the former picture theatre was transformed into a rollerskating rink,<sup>54</sup> at the height of the international roller disco craze. Most of the remaining picture theatre interior was removed at this time. A concrete first floor was also inserted into the Assembly Hall to create a library on the ground floor and a small cinema upstairs.<sup>55</sup>

The former picture theatre reopened as the Hindmarsh Rollodrome on 28 September 1979,<sup>56</sup> but the venture failed to thrive and the skating rink closed in 1984. The auditorium became the Vietnamese Christian Community Centre between 1984 and

c.1992.<sup>57</sup> The Assembly Hall cinema was leased by an independent cinema operator until c.1992.

On 2 August 1993, the Hindmarsh Corporation and the Corporation of the City of Woodville amalgamated, becoming the City of Hindmarsh Woodville. Administration of the new city was consolidated at the Woodville Town Hall, leaving the former Hindmarsh Town Hall redundant. Later, on 1 January 1997, the City of Hindmarsh Woodville amalgamated with the City of Henley and Grange to become the City of Charles Sturt.

In 1998–2000, the former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex was redeveloped to accommodate the Department for Education, Training and Employment's Technology School of the Future (TSof) and Conference Centre.<sup>58</sup> This formed part of DETE's Education Development Centre, in turn part of the City of Charles Sturt's Digital Precinct at Hindmarsh.<sup>59</sup> During the redevelopment, the north and south-eastern walls and roof structure of the former picture theatre were demolished. The electric clock from the Port Road façade and a marble plaque commemorating the opening of the former Town Hall picture theatre were also removed and relocated to the Hindmarsh Historical Society's Fire and Folk Museum at 2b Hindmarsh Place, Hindmarsh. TSof and the EDC opened in June 2000 and continues to operate.<sup>60</sup>

## Chronology

Year	Event
1837	Colonel William Light begins laying out Adelaide and its adjoining country sections.
1838	Governor John Hindmarsh selects Section 353 for a total of £75 and subdivides the triangular parcel as Hindmarsh Town.
c.1847	The Hindmarsh Institute is established.
1852	<i>District Councils Act 1852</i> is assented.
1853	Hindmarsh District Council is established under the <i>District Councils Act 1852</i> .
<b>1860</b>	<b>May: Hindmarsh District Hall is extant by this time.</b>
1874	1 October: Corporation of the Town of Hindmarsh is proclaimed by the Governor of South Australia, Anthony Musgrave. The Hindmarsh District Council is dissolved.
<b>1875</b>	<b>13 March, Hindmarsh Corporation sells the assets of the former District Council at auction, including the former District Hall.</b> <b>The former District Hall is purchased for the Hindmarsh Institute Committee.</b>
1879	The Hindmarsh Institute Committee commences fundraising to expand the Institute Library.
c.1880	The Hindmarsh Institute Committee commissions architect Thomas Frost to design additions in two stages, comprising a second storey on the existing building and a new lecture hall to the rear.
<b>1880</b>	<b>4 December: Chief Justice James Way lays the foundation stone for the new lecture hall.</b>
<b>1881</b>	<b>15 August: the new lecture hall is completed by Hindmarsh builders James King &amp; Son, at a cost of £2,165, and officially opened.</b>
<b>1886</b>	<b>3 June: the second stage of additions is completed by James King &amp; Son, to a design by Whittell &amp; Wells, and officially opened.</b>
<b>1891</b>	The Hindmarsh Corporation acquires the Hindmarsh Institute Library in exchange for housing the Institute 'for all time'. <b>The Hindmarsh Institute Library becomes known as the Hindmarsh Town Hall.</b>
<b>c.1894</b>	<b>The Hindmarsh Town Hall auditorium is extended to accommodate a stage, proscenium and basement.</b>
<b>1894</b>	<b>A section of the auditorium floor is flattened to accommodate dancing.</b>
1897	Motion pictures are first screened in South Australia as a novelty.
1907	Cinema begins its emergence as a dominant form of mass entertainment.
c.1910	Pioneering Adelaide cinema entrepreneur William Herbert Bruce begins screening silent films at the Hindmarsh Town Hall.

- 1920s Cinema-going booms in South Australia.
- 1918 Adelaide newsagent turned picture theatre entrepreneur Daniel (Dan) Clifford offers to partially finance reconstruction of the Hindmarsh Town Hall to improve its suitability for screening motion pictures, in return for a ten-year lease over the auditorium.
- 1921 21 April: the reconstructed and extended Hindmarsh Town Hall is completed by Croydon contractor H. S. C. Jarvis to a design by architects W. H. Medwell & Son, and officially opened.**
- 1922 15 July: a new Hindmarsh Memorial Institute Hall at 266 Port Road is opened, allowing the Hindmarsh Institute to relocate out of the Hindmarsh Town Hall.
- 1927 12 November: an electric clock is unveiled on the Port Road elevation of the Hindmarsh Town Hall.**
- 1927 12 April: the new Woodville Town Hall opens.
- 1928 11 June: the new Thebarton Town Hall opens.
- 1930 Most communities in South Australia possess a venue for screening motion pictures.
- 1934 5 November: Hindmarsh councillors denounce the existing Hindmarsh Town Hall as 'an eyesore' and 'a disgrace' and pass a unanimous resolution to rebuild the structure in time for the State's centenary in 1936.
- 1936** 18 April: the Hindmarsh Council polls Hindmarsh ratepayers before proceeding with the rebuilding of the Hindmarsh Town Hall.
- 14 May: tenders close for erection of a new town hall and alterations to the existing Hindmarsh Town Hall.
- 27 June: the Mayor of Hindmarsh, John McInnes MP, lays the foundation stone of the new Hindmarsh Town Hall.**
- 16 December: the first stage of the new Hindmarsh Town Hall, comprising a purpose-built picture theatre, is opened by the Governor, Sir Winston Dugan.**
- Work begins on the second stage of the Hindmarsh Town Hall renovations. The auditorium built 1880-1921 is shortened by approximately one-third and becomes known as the Assembly Hall.**
- 1937 28 June: the completed new Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex is opened by Mayor McInnes.**
- 1947 March, Greater Union Theatres Limited acquires the lease over the new Town Hall picture theatre and subsequently advertises the venue as the Hindmarsh Odeon Theatre.
- 1966 March, the Hindmarsh Odeon Theatre serves as a stage venue during the Festival of Arts.



- 20 August: Greater Union Theatres Limited closes the Hindmarsh Odeon Theatre amid competition from drive-in theatres and television.
- 1968 The Hindmarsh Town Hall picture theatre is operated independently as the Hindmarsh Town Hall Cinema.
- 1970 The Hindmarsh Town Hall picture theatre is operated independently as the Flicker Arts Cinema.
- 1971-1972 The Hindmarsh Town Hall picture theatre is again operated independently as the Hindmarsh Town Hall Cinema.
- 1972-1974 April '72 to April '74: the Hindmarsh Town Hall picture theatre is operated independently as Cinema Italia.
- 1974-1975 May '74 to September '75: the Hindmarsh Town Hall picture theatre is operated independently as Cinema Europa.
- 1975 7 September 1975: a fire inflicts severe damage upon the interior of the Town Hall picture theatre.**
- 1979-1981 The Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex is renovated by Trojan Owen & Associates, including extensive removal of internal walling, and transformation of the former picture theatre into a rollerskating rink. The remaining picture theatre interior is removed at this time.**
- 1979 A concrete floor is inserted into the Assembly Hall to create a library on the ground floor and a small cinema upstairs.**
- 28 September: the Hindmarsh Rollerdrome opens.**
- c.1979- c.1992 Adelaide independent cinema operator Windsor Theatres leases the small cinema in the Assembly Hall.
- 1989 23 November: the north-eastern part of the former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex, comprising the structures completed before 1936, is confirmed in the Register as Local Government Building—Town Hall (SHP 11794).**
- 1993 2 August: the Hindmarsh Corporation and the Corporation of the City of Woodville amalgamate, becoming the City of Hindmarsh Woodville. Administration of the new city is consolidated at the Woodville Town Hall, leaving the former Hindmarsh Town Hall redundant.
- 1997 1 January: the City of Hindmarsh Woodville amalgamates with the City of Henley and Grange to become the City of Charles Sturt.
- 1998-2000 The former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex is redeveloped to accommodate the Department for Education, Training and Employment's Education Development Centre (EDC) and Technology School of the Future (TSof).**
- The north and south-eastern walls and roof structure of the former picture theatre are demolished. The electric clock from the Port Road elevation and a marble plaque commemorating the opening of the former Town Hall picture theatre are also removed and relocated to the Hindmarsh**

**Historical Society's Fire and Folk Museum at 2b Hindmarsh Place,  
Hindmarsh.**

**2000 June, the EDC and TSoF open, housed in the redeveloped former  
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## SITE RECORD

<b>NAME:</b>	Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades)	<b>PLACE NO.:</b>	26609
<b>FORMER NAME:</b>	Hindmarsh Town Hall		
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:</b>	Northeastern and northwestern elevations of former town hall complex		
<b>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:</b>	Built in stages c.1860-1886, refaced 1936-1937		
<b>REGISTER STATUS:</b>	Identified: 7 December 2023 Provisionally entered: 10 April 2025		
<b>CURRENT USE:</b>	Education Development Centre 2000 – present		
<b>PREVIOUS USE(S):</b>	District Council Hall, c.1860 – 1875 Institute Hall, 1875 – 1891 Town hall, 1891 – 1993 Picture theatre, 1936 – 1975 Skating rink, 1979 – 1984 Cinema, 1979 – c.1992 Technology School of the Future, 2000 – c.2006		
<b>ARCHITECT:</b>	Thomas Frost, 1881 additions Whittell & Wells, 1886 additions W. H. Medwell & Son, 1920 additions Chris A. Smith, 1936-1937 additions		
<b>BUILDER:</b>	James King & Son, 1881-1886 additions H. S. C. Jarvis, 1920 additions F. Fricker Limited, 1936-1937 additions		
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:</b>	City of Charles Sturt		
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Street No.:</b>	4	
	<b>Street Name:</b>	Milner Street	
	<b>Town/Suburb:</b>	Hindmarsh	
	<b>Post Code:</b>	5007	
<b>LAND DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>Title</b>	CT 5789/111 D51300 A1; CT 5789/106	
	<b>Reference:</b>	D52380 A3	
	<b>Hundred:</b>	Yatala	

## PHOTOS

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**NAME:** Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26609  
(façades)

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All images in this section are from DEW Files and were taken on 21 February 2025, unless otherwise indicated.



**Port Road elevation of former Council Chambers and Institute Library  
(built in stages c.1860-1886, refaced 1936-1937)**



**Milner Street elevation former Council Chambers and Institute Library  
(built in stages c.1860-1886, refaced 1936-1937)**

## PHOTOS

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**NAME:** Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26609  
(façades)

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**Milner Street elevation showing former picture theatre entry (built new 1936)**



**Milner Street elevation showing wall of picture theatre (built new 1936)**

## PHOTOS

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**NAME:** Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26609  
(façades)

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**Pilaster capitals showing fern motif**



**Port Road elevation parapet detail showing receding steps and rising dentils**



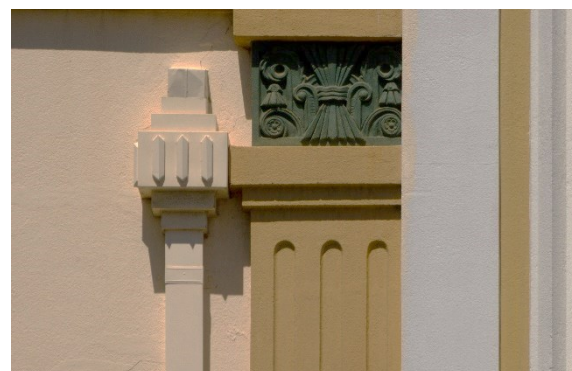
**Curvilinear fin feature to Port Road elevation**



**Frieze featuring parallel lines and geometric decoration, with zig-zag motif**



**Welded steel lettering**



**Rainhead**

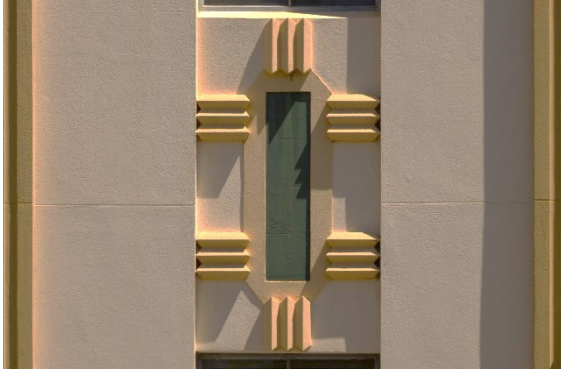


## PHOTOS

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**NAME:** Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex **PLACE NO.:** 26609  
(façades)

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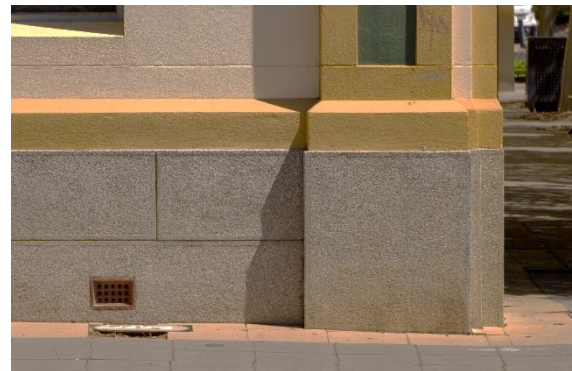
Spandrel with geometric decoration



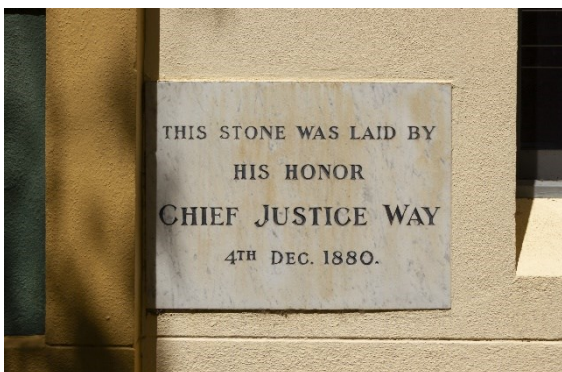
Decoration to Port Road elevation showing keystone, Greek key and fern motifs



Detail of fin and trough features to former picture theatre entry



Ashlar terrazzo base courses



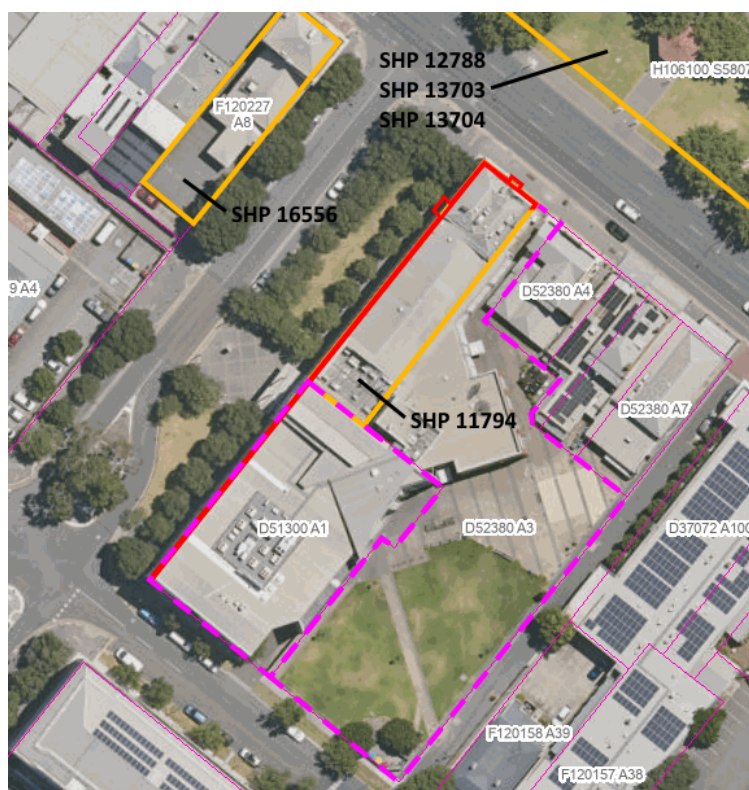
Foundation stone on former Council Chambers and Institute Library



Foundation stone on former picture theatre entry

## SITE PLAN

**NAME:** Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) **PLACE NO.:** 26609



### Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) (CT 5789/111 D51300 A1; CT 5789/106 D52380 A3 Hundred of Yatala)\*

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):




- Elevations to Port Road and Milner Street,
- Short return on south-eastern elevation,
- Portland cement decoration,
- Ashlar terrazzo podium,
- Other original features including steel and timber window frames, cantilevered awnings, welded steel lettering, rainheads and downpipes, and foundation stones.

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Roof structures,
- South-eastern wall of 1860-1886 building,
- South-western wall of 1936 picture theatre building,
- Interiors,
- Flag poles,
- Elements associated with 1998-2000 redevelopment, including awning over former picture theatre entrance.

N ↑

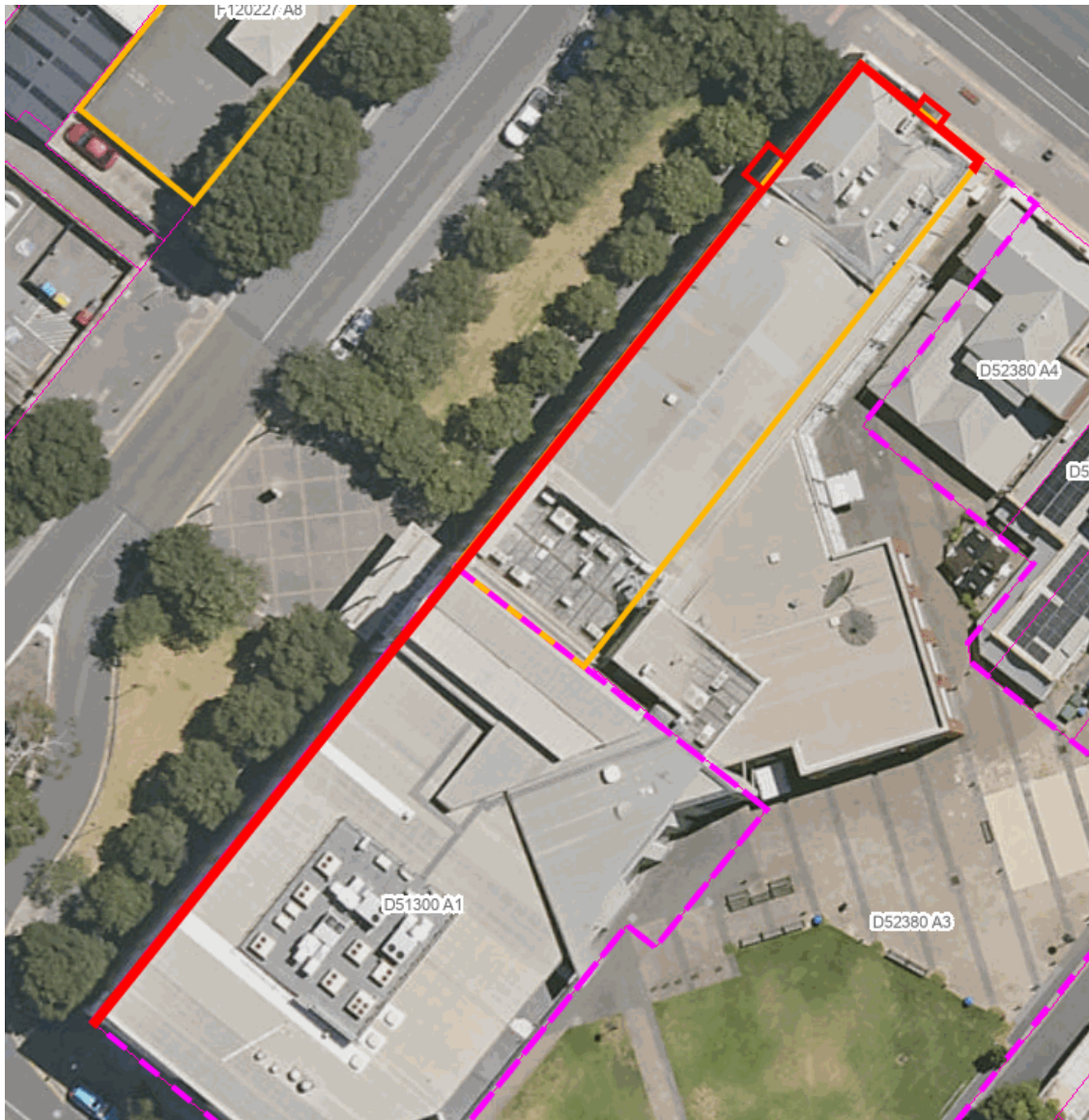
## LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  Local Government Building – Town Hall SHP 11794, Monument – Lamp Standards SHP 12788, Rotunda – Bandstand SHP 13703, Drinking Fountain SHP 13704 and Post Office Building SHP 16556
-  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.

## SITE PLAN




**NAME:** Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) **PLACE NO.:** 26609



Former Hindmarsh Town Hall Complex (façades) (detail)\*

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### LEGEND

-  Parcel boundaries (Indicates extent of Listing)
-  Local Government Building – Town Hall SHP11794 and Post Office Building SHP 16556
-  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.

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- <sup>1</sup> Jeffrey Meikle, *Twentieth Century Limited: industrial design in America, 1925-1939* (2001) Philadelphia PA: Temple University Press p. xiii
- <sup>2</sup> Richard Apperly, Irving and Reynolds, *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture* (1989) North Ryde NSW: Angus and Robertson pp. 188-191
- <sup>3</sup> Apperly et al *Identifying Australian Architecture* pp. 184-187
- <sup>4</sup> Apperly et al *Identifying Australian Architecture* pp. 192-193
- <sup>5</sup> Caroline Cosgrove, "Art Deco: its place in South Australia's architectural heritage," Department for Environment and Heritage South Australian Built Heritage Research Fellowship Report 2007/2008 (2009)
- <sup>6</sup> Carol Cosgrove, *Moving to the Modern: Art Deco in South Australian Architecture* (2009) Adelaide SA: Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design, University of South Australia
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- <sup>9</sup> Chris Burns, 'Art Deco in South Australian Architecture' (2018) Adelaide SA: Art Deco and Modernism Society of Australia Inc. Adelaide Chapter
- <sup>10</sup> Meikle discourages the use of the word Moderne, which 'misleadingly implies French derivation'; *Twentieth Century Limited* p. xiii
- <sup>11</sup> Roy Lumby, "Art Deco" in Philip Goad and Julie Willis (eds), *Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture* (2012) Port Melbourne VIC: Cambridge University Press pp. 42-43
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- <sup>16</sup> Ronald Parsons, *Hindmarsh Town* p. 33
- <sup>17</sup> Ronald Parsons, *Hindmarsh Town* pp. 108-109, 157-159
- <sup>18</sup> 'Opening of the Hindmarsh Institute.' in *Evening Journal* 16 August 1881 p. 3 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article197758926>
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- 34 Hindmarsh Council, 'Municipality of Hindmarsh, Information Concerning the New Town Hall' (1936)
- 35 The new hall was 'designed specifically for use as a picture theatre'; 'New Town Hall at Hindmarsh, Foundation Stone Laid By Mayor' in *Advertiser* 29 June 1936 p. 11 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article74318900>
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<sup>55</sup> Bruce Harry & Associates, 'Heritage Assessment of the former Hindmarsh Council Offices and Town Hall and Redevelopment Guidelines for the Technology School of the Future' (April 1998) p. 4; note that this document outlines a different sequence of nineteenth-century development at the former Hindmarsh Town Hall to that presented here, due to limitations on primary sources available to the researchers in 1998.

<sup>56</sup> 'Suburban Highlights, Hindmarsh' in *Hills Gazette* 3 October 1979 p. 10

<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article270596426>

<sup>57</sup> Colin Flint, 'Hindmarsh Town Hall/Star Theatre' in *Kino* p. 16

<sup>58</sup> Matthews Architects, The Education Development Centre

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<sup>59</sup> Department of Education, Training and Employment (DETE), 'Planning Report: Technology School of the Future and Conference Centre' (September 1998) DETE p. 1

<sup>60</sup> Walter Koll, John Travers and Cecilia Wilson, 'PEB Exchange Programme on Educational Building 2001/02, Towards a Learning Society: Leta 2000' (c.2002) OECD

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