

Adv. 7.6.35

## Elizabethan Architecture

# HISTORIC BUILDING LEFT NEGLECTED

## Hidden Example Of Elizabethan Style

### PRESERVATION URGED

There were many visitors yesterday to the "beautiful and historic" buildings behind the Institute and Public Library, North terrace, as a result of Mr. H. L. Ward's letter in "The Advertiser" drawing attention to this "forgotten and forlorn architectural treasure," which is at present hidden behind galvanised iron fences and sheds. Mr. Dean W. Berry, architect, strongly supported Mr. Ward's appeal for their preservation.

"The buildings possess a great deal of old-world charm," he said. "Constructed of blue stone and brick, which has mellowed with age, they are an interesting example of Elizabethan style. The sobriety of the elevations is noticeable, as the buildings were designed in a period when extraordinary architectural excesses were indulged in. The contours of the gables are simple yet interesting, giving decided character to the buildings, and the mullioned windows, with their diamond and steel casements, are interesting features typical of this attractive period. In the buildings of this style designed in Elizabeth's reign, traces can generally be found of a Renaissance feeling creeping into the detail and heralding the approach of the next architectural period. This, however, does not occur in these Adelaide buildings, and the main doorways, so frequently decorated with classic detail, are in this case enhanced by the use of graceful four-centre arches, a style of the earlier part of the Tudor period.

"Considering the time these interesting examples of early architecture in Adelaide have been standing, they are from outward appearance, in a reasonably good state of preservation, despite the apparent lack of care bestowed on them in recent years," added Mr. Berry. "Surely with a little careful repairing, they could be preserved at a comparatively small cost to the State, not only for their beauty, but also for useful accommodation."

#### Built About 1558

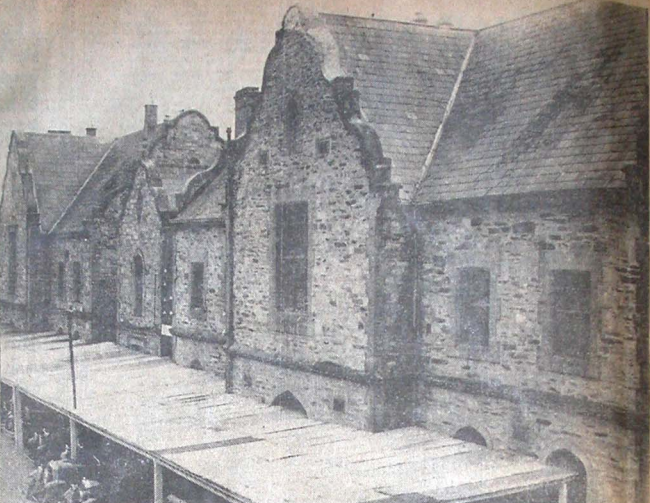
Enquiries at the Archives Department revealed that the buildings forming the large block behind the Library and Museum were not built at the same time. The eastern end was erected in 1558 as a Government store, and was known as the "new Colonial store," and the central and western portion was added between 1558 and 1574. By 1574 the first portion was no longer used as a store but as the southern destitute men's quarters. Later it became an infirmary and was the hospital attached to the destitute for men. At that time it was surrounded by gardens. In recent years it came under the control of the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery.

#### Present Condition

The secretary of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery (Mr. H. S. Marshall) explained yesterday that the building was practically valueless inside and was used as a store house. The space in front had been let as a parking station. The question of repairing the building was not considered as an accommodation had been considered on many occasions, he said, but it had been thought that the cost would be greater than the value of the building. The only way to make useful accommodation would be to demolish the building and re-erect it in the same style, which would, of course, entail great expense.

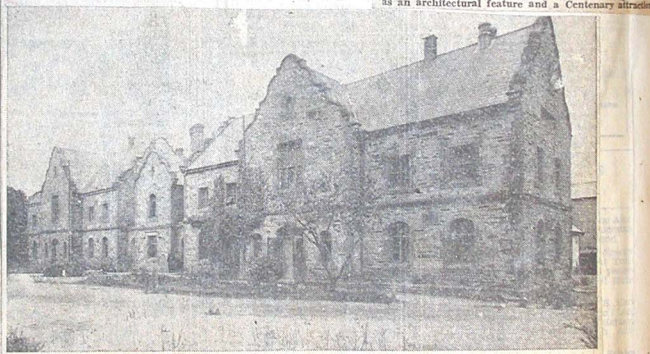
Until recently the front portion of the western end of the buildings was covered in masses of ivy, which added to the beauty of the building as seen at the back of the Labor Exchange premises, and a tall galvanised iron shed also hid the building from the public. The new entrance from Kinross avenue, made since the establishment of the parking station, had improved the position and was a great improvement along the entire front of the building effectively hid the unique architectural features of the doorway.

Surprise was expressed yesterday that the buildings had not been acquired by the University, because the entire front of the building effectively hid the unique architectural features of the doorway. Another suggestion was that the building should be restored as a Centenary feature. (Picture on back page.)



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A RELIC of the Elizabethan style at the rear of the Public Library, North terrace, which, it was urged by a correspondent in "The Advertiser" yesterday, should be preserved as an architectural feature and a Centenary attraction.



ITS ELIZABETHAN ATTRACTIVENESS marred by the erection of an unsightly lean-to, used as a shelter for motor cars and bicycles, this building at the rear of the Public Library on North terrace, is rapidly falling into decay. The photograph, taken many years ago, and now published by courtesy of the Archives Department, shows how it would look again if efforts were made to restore and preserve it, as suggested by a correspondent in "The Advertiser." The land and building are owned by the Government, and controlled by the Public Library Board.

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## HISTORIC LANDMARKS

### PRESERVATION OF PIONEER BUILDINGS

To the Editor

SIR—I was very pleased to read Mr. H. L. Ward's letter regarding the old Barracks behind the Public Library; but more especially to note the response it appears to have received. I was given to understand this fine old building had been condemned to be demolished. Adelaide has so little architecturally to be proud of that the few specimens bequeathed by our grandfathers should be carefully preserved as examples for the future. If we refuse to admit sentiment, let us re-

gard such things as educational. It should also be remembered that not long ago the destruction of the old police station and Government House were but narrowly averted, and there is still an agitation to destroy the Town Hall.

I have urged upon several occasions the necessity of forming a Historical Society, the aims to be not only historical research, but the recording and possible preservation of interesting old buildings, pioneer cottages, wind and water mills, and other landmarks connected with the early days. Many such may still be found in various parts of the State, but are rapidly falling into ruin or being defaced. These can never be replaced, and each year their value will increase. To preserve them is our immediate duty to posterity. There are various societies in England, as well as the National Trust, which have done a great amount of good work in recent years. I feel confident that there are many South Australians who would be glad to take this matter up before it is too late.—I am Sir, &c.

E. PHILLIPS DANKER.  
Brookman Buildings, Grenfell street.

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## PRESERVING OLD BUILDING

### Minister Promises Enquiry

The Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. Hudd) said on Saturday that he would have enquiries made concerning the possibility of preserving as a Centenary feature, the building at the rear of the Public Library.

The building, which was associated with the early life of the State is owned by the Government, though controlled at present by the Public Library Board. It is used as a store-room. It has been suggested that by the removal of an unsightly lean-to and inexpensive reconditioning, the building could be restored to its former attractiveness.