

PLEA FOR HISTORIC BUILDING

Sydney Grammar removal plan under fire

National Trust and Australian Museum officials attacked yesterday the proposal to move the historic Sydney Grammar School building from College Street to Edgecliff.

They said the transfer would break up a historic group of buildings in College and Macquarie Streets.

The critics were the directors of the National Trust of Australia, Mr R. N. Walker, and of the Australian Museum, Dr F. H. Talbot.

Mr Walker said re-erected in Edgecliff the building would not be the original one and would not have its historic associations.

Dr Talbot said the office block which would probably replace the school would only add to congestion in an already crowded area. The museum is next to the school.

Sydney Grammar School, one of Australia's oldest boys' schools, plans to move from its present 122,000 sq ft site in College Street to a 300,000-sq ft site in Edgecliff which it is negotiating to buy from The Edgecliff Glebe Administration Board of the Church of England.

The plan includes the moving of the 137-year-old main building of the school, stone by stone, to the new site.

Mr Walker said the building was classified B by the trust — a building of high significance, which the trust strongly recommended for preservation.

But the trust also classified buildings in groups, and the school was one of a group in College and Macquarie Streets to which it had given an A classification — a group of great historic interest and architectural quality, the preservation of which was essential to the heritage of the State.

Others in this group were the Australian Museum, St Mary's Cathedral, the Registrar-General's Department and the Queens Square Court building which was once a barracks.

"It would be unfortunate if such an important element of this group as Sydney Grammar were removed," he said.

"We also fear the type of development which would replace it.

"Having regard to the type of development which is taking place in the city, the chances are that the new development would be completely out of character with the other buildings."

Mr Walker said he could understand the school trustees' sentimental attachment to the building and their feeling that, by re-erecting it at another site, they would be retaining something important to the State and the community.

"But the trust does not see it that way," he said.

"What would be out at Edgecliff would not be the original building of Sydney Grammar."

Mr Walker said in the re-erection process structural steel, cement and new joinery might have to be used.



Sir Norman Cowper



Mr Walker



Dr Talbot

"You have to consider that the building has a history apart from Sydney Grammar," he said.

"Sydney University was started there.

"College Street is the place where these things happened, and re-erection of the building, even with a substantial proportion of the original materials, at another site at Edgecliff, does not perpetuate that history."

Mr Walker said that if the school trustees wanted to shift the building to Edgecliff there was nothing the National Trust could do about it.

The trust would prefer the school to sell the present site with the building on it.

Dr Talbot said the Australian Museum did not want the school land, because it was already expanding into land and buildings on the corner of William and Yurong Streets previously occupied by the Department of Child Welfare.

"But I am distressed at the proposal to remove the school building," he said.

It would destroy the grouping of historic buildings in College and Macquarie Streets.

The chairman of trustees of Sydney Grammar School, Sir Norman Cowper, said yesterday he believed they had a good case for removing the school to the new site.

He said the character of College Street had already been destroyed by planning authorities allowing high rise development between Stanley Street and Oxford Street.

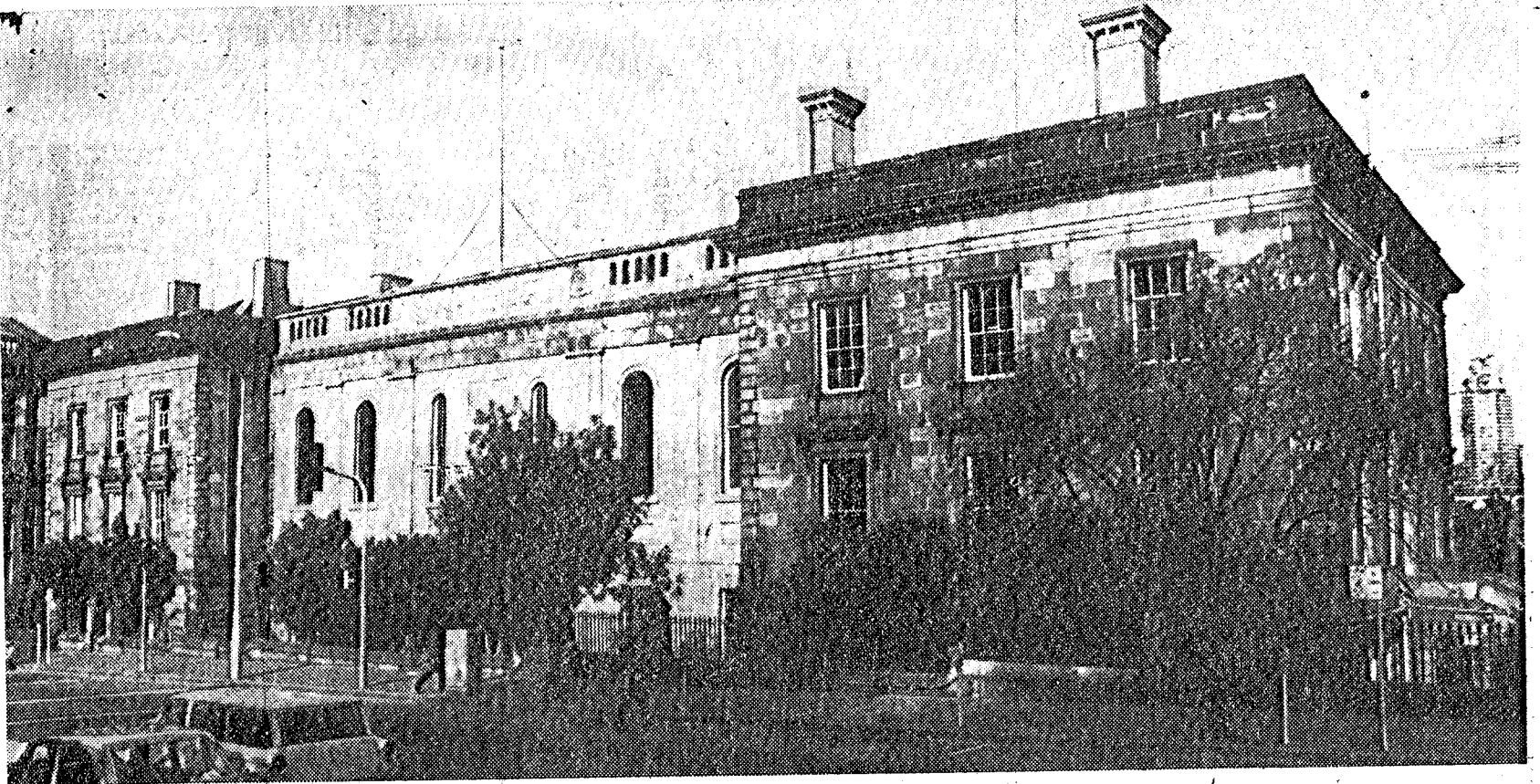
The land on which the school stands in College

Street is zoned as special purposes (school). This prevents any other type of development on the site. But it is understood the trustees will seek re-zoning to allow commercial development before selling the land.

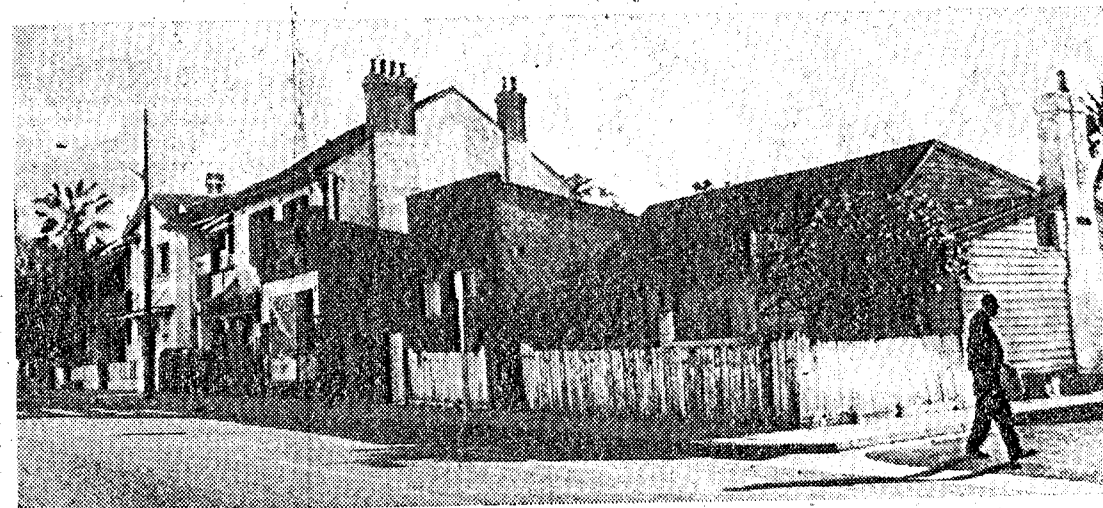
The re-zoning would have to be approved by the City Council and the State Planning Authority.

The school's plans provide for the closure of a number of streets in Edgecliff between Ocean Street and Trumper Park, which are now occupied by old terraces and single storey houses.

A row of terraces in Cameron Street would be kept and renovated for use as masters' residences.



The present school in College Street, City.



Yesterday's picture of the site in Edgecliff on which the school plans to erect the College Street building.

'Beautiful Losers' under scrutiny

Alumina project workers go back

Detectives of the CIB Vice Squad visited Angus and Robertson, booksellers, in Pitt Street, Sydney, yesterday and bought a copy of "The Beautiful Losers."

They also photographed other copies of the book, by Canadian author Leonard Cohen, which were on sale at \$4.95.

Detective-Sergeant W. Rait, the acting officer-in-charge of the Vice Squad, was accompanied by Detective-Sergeant K. McDonnell and Detective J. Brown, of the squad.

The officers had been instructed by the Assistant Commissioner to buy a copy of the book.

Police will report to the Assistant Commissioner, who will make his report, with any recommendation, to the Chief Secretary.

The novel compares the life of seventeenth-century Indian saint, Catherine Tekakwitha, with the sexual and erotic adventures of modern Montreal intellectuals.

BRISBANE, Wednesday. — Construction workers on the Gladstone alumina expansion project returned to the job today after a six-week break.

About 250 men began work this morning on the third stage expansion project which was closed down last October 18 because of industrial trouble.

About 600 men are expected to be on the job early next year.

If work goes according to plan, the \$120 million third stage expansion project will be finished next September.

When it eventually goes into production it will lift the output of alumina from 1,275,000 to two million tons a year.

Completion of the third stage will mark the end of a construction program spanning almost nine years.

Whitlam's national wage plan

The Leader of the Opposition, Mr Whitlam, promised last night that an ALP Government would re-open the national wage case and advocate equal pay for women.

Mr Whitlam was addressing a crowd of 3,000 at Cronulla.

He also promised that the mortgage subsidy scheme would apply to single women, whether widowed, divorced or unmarried.

Mr Whitlam said he did not believe the Australian public would fall for the "smear and fear line."

Although the ALP had been painted as a monster of depravity, no specific charges had been made against individual members

WAGE CASE DECISION RESERVED

MELBOURNE, Wednesday. — The Arbitration Commission's decision on the national wage and equal pay cases may be known before Christmas.

The Full Bench reserved its decision today on both cases.

In previous national wage cases, the Bench has usually taken two or three weeks to reach a decision.

Hearing of the ACTU's national wage and equal pay claims began on October 24.

The ACTU claimed a national wage increase of \$12.10 a week, and an in-

crease in the minimum wage from \$51.20 to \$65.

It also brought a test case seeking the extension of equal pay to women doing work of equal value to that of men.

On the last day of the hearing today, the ACTU's industrial advocate, Mr Ralph Willis, told the Bench the least it could do was grant an increase of 5 per cent.

This would cover price and productivity increases since the last national wage decision in May, he said.

It would amount to \$3.20 a week on a flat rate basis.

Apology order on union men

ADELAIDE, Wednesday. — Trade-union leaders, Mr L. J. Robinson and Mr R. G. Owens, face indefinite jail sentences after being found guilty of contempt of court in the Supreme Court today.

They have been given until 11.30 am tomorrow to apologise or a warrant will be issued automatically for their arrest.

Mr Justice Wells found today that Mr Robinson, Federal president and State secretary of the Builders Labourers' Federation and Mr Owens, the union's State organiser, "wilfully and knowingly" defied a Supreme Court injunction.

The injunction restrained them from interfering with or threatening by illegal means the business of Adriatic Terrazzo and Foundations Pty Ltd, of Para Vista.

He said the two men had breached the civil right of the company to continue its operations.

Mr Justice Hogarth granted Adriatic Terrazzo the injunction on November 21 during a dispute between the company and the union over the employment of non-union labour.

The company sought the court's intervention when Mr Robinson and Mr Owens imposed a series of bans on its operations, jeopardising contracts.

Nine QCs appointed

The NSW Attorney-General, Mr McCaw, yesterday announced the appointment of nine barristers as Queen's Counsel.

They are: Mr R. J. Marr, Mr K. G. Gee, Mr

M. D. Finlay, Mr T. Falkingham, Mr J. F. Dey, Mr L. J. Priestley, Mr G. G. Masterman, Mr F. J. Gormly and Mr B. K. C. Thomson (of the Victorian Bar).