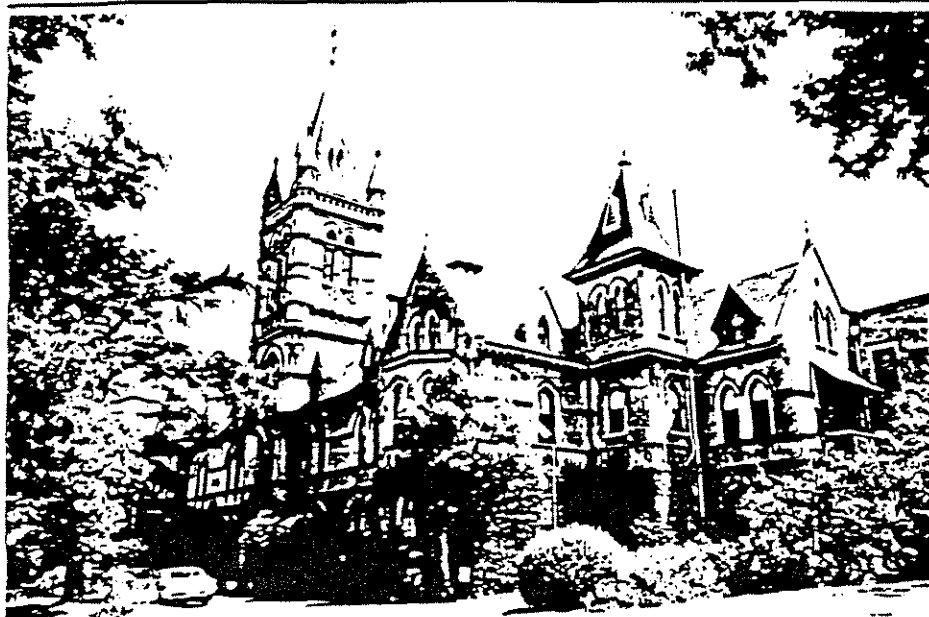


BARKERS ROAD, METHODIST LADIES COLLEGE - MAIN BUILDING

Original Use: School
Date of Construction: 1882¹
Architect: Crouch and Wilson²

DESIGNATION A
CITATION NO.73

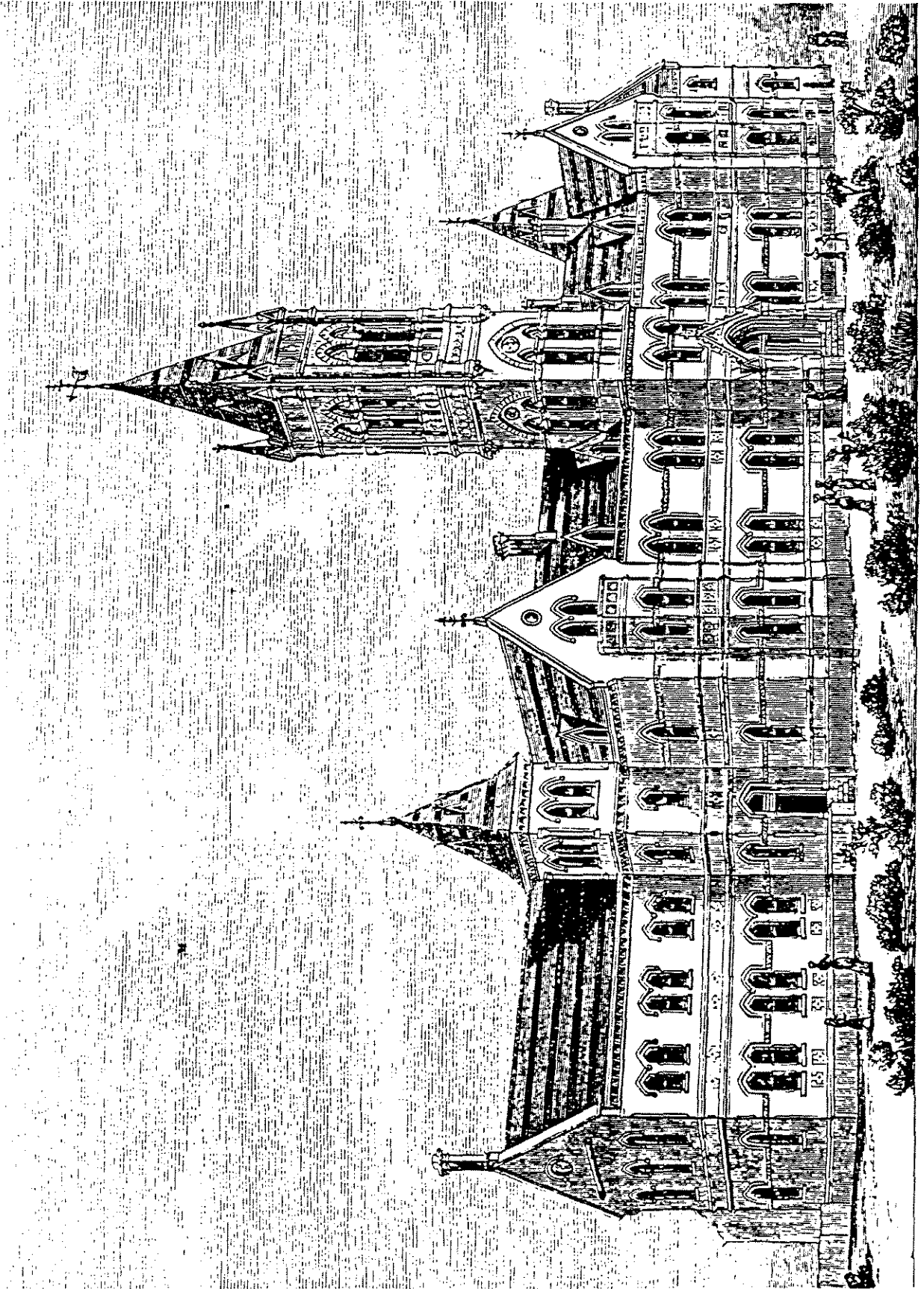


HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

In 1882 the Rev. George Daniel laid the foundation stone of the Methodist Ladies College³. Built by James Babour the cost of erection came to about £12,00⁴ while in December 1885 Crouch called tenders for extensive additions to the school⁵, the additional works estimated to cost £25,000⁶. Several extra classrooms, a studio and swimming baths were constructed in 1889⁷ while in 1895 John Edmund Burke opened a contract for the internal decoration of M.L.C.⁸. In 1939 the baths were demolished and a new gymnasium and swimming pool were constructed⁹.

The main building at the school has a most commanding design, built symmetrically about the tower, it has a pavilioned form with projecting gables at each end. The decoration across the building is gothic and the tower is particularly heavily decorated, with corner turrets and string courses with quatrefoils, while colonnettes and hood mouldings decorate its the coupled windows. Further research would be warranted on this building to establish the stages of its construction.

As it stands, the school is one of the most commanding educational buildings to have been built in Melbourne and compares in stature to buildings such as Ormond College at the University of Melbourne designed by Joseph Reed.



'New Methodist Ladies College, Hawthorn (sic.)' (*Australasian Sketcher*, 31 December 1881)