BISHOP HALE'S SCHOOL / THE CLOISTERS
The first secondary school in Western Australia

ABOVE: The inaugural Anglican Bishop of Perth, Matthew Blagden Hale, had a keen interest in education and founded the first secondary school in Western Australia. After a fundraising campaign, which included a substantial personal donation from the bishop himself, a school building was designed by Richard Roach Jewell and built by convict labour on St Georges Terrace at Mill Street. Officially known as the Perth Church of England Collegiate School, it mainly attracted wealthy young men as pupils. The opening of the new school was reported in the Inquirer newspaper on 30 June 1858: "The Bishop's School, Perth, was opened on Monday, when there was an attendance of about 23 scholars, a very good commencement."
which became known as the Cloisters, was enlarged and
remodeled in the 1930s and continued as a school until 1914. After this it was used
for various purposes such as St John’s University Hostel to provide accommodation for
students of the newly formed University of Western Australia. In 1931 the building
was purchased by the City of Perth and renovated to allow municipal offices to
reside there. In 1969 the building was sold to the State Government and it has
continued to be a government office building ever since. Despite being included
on the cards in the mid-1960s, but a campaign in the West Australian generated public
support for its retention and it was eventually incorporated into a scheme for office
buildings with a plaza and shopping arcade, which forms the building’s backdrop
today. Although the Cloisters stopped being used as a school over 100 years ago, Hale
Collett’s building still stands as a testament to the educational heritage of the
area.