
ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (FORMER)



52429 St Andrews Pres Ch
merino 090

Location

38 LEVY STREET, MERINO, GLENELG SHIRE

Municipality

GLENELG SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

Glenelg Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is located on the south east corner of Hare and Levy Streets, Merino, overlooking the township of Merino. The church is a simple primarily symmetrical building with a small porch attached to the facade, and a small timber vestry added at the rear in the later twentieth century. Constructed of local bricks, with a simple white/grey render, the church was built in 1868 by builders Messers. Northcott and Diwell, who also built the Merino Free Library and Mechanic's Institute. The roof is a steeply pitched gable clad with short sheets of corrugated iron. Three impressive dipartite windows decorate the east and west elevations of the church. Merino township and district had many Scottish emigrants take up allotments and early pastoral leases. From as early as 1842, Presbyterian services were held in private homes and at the 'Farmer's Arms' Inn at Merino until the church was built. In 1861, some of the most influential landowners in the district formed a charge for the area, resulting in churches being built at Merino, Digby, Casterton and Coleraine. The Scot's Presbyterian Church opened in August 1869. The church is generally in very good condition, although there is

some evidence of movement beneath the windows. No architect has been proven to be associated with the church but it was possibly James Fox of Hamilton, who designed several other local Presbyterian churches in a similar style.

How is it significant?

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is of architectural, historical and social significance to the Glenelg Shire.

Why is it Significant?

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is of architectural significance for its distinctly Gothic style and use of local materials, particularly locally made bricks from the clay creek beds to the south of the township of Merino. Of further significance are sophisticated bipartite gothic diaper windows, which are unusually ornate for a Presbyterian church of this period.

The church has historical significance for its early associations with important Scottish emigrants who became extremely successful pastoralists and members of the congregation. Donations of money, time and gifts are reflected in the grandeurs of the fittings of the small church interior and its windows. Historically, its location is also significant, being located highest on the hill overlooking the town of Merino. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is of social significance for its continuous use as a place of worship in the township of Merino for over 130 years.

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Glenelg - Glenelg Shire Heritage Study Part One, Carlotta Kellaway, David Rhodes Mandy Jean, 2002; Glenelg - Glenelg Heritage Study Stage Two (a), Heritage Matters, 2006; |
| Construction dates | 1868, |
| Other Names | SCOT'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (FORMER), ST. ANDREWS UNITING CHURCH, |
| Hermes Number | 52429 |
| Property Number | |

Usage/Former Usage

Vacant - proposed to be sold privately

Physical Description 1

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is a simple, primarily symmetrical, rendered red brick church located on the south east corner of Hare and Levy Streets, Merino. Built in the Gothic style, the church has impressive dipartite windows divided with cast iron in a diaper pattern. The church is raised on a rendered plinth; the simple rectangular nave is divided into three bays, each bay separated by rendered stepped buttresses with stone capping. The roof is a steeply pitched gable; clad in short sheets of corrugated iron, capped with stone on the gables. The facade of the building has a simple stone entrance porch, also built of rendered brick, with an asbestos sheeting gable roof. A rose window (also in a diaper pattern) is set high into the centre of the gable, and unusually, a single lancet window is set on the north side of the facade. The window reveals and sills are angled and rendered in a pattern of quoins. There is an arched moulding above each window. Each window has a metal vent on one side. There are cracks developing in the brick work under each of the windows on the north and west walls. There are metal ties securing the west wall along the north wall.

A modern timber vestry is located at the rear of the church. The north wall of the vestry has a rectangular timber door and a two pane rectangular window.

There are a number of mature trees on the site, the only significant being the Cypress located immediately

adjacent to the church.

Physical Conditions

Good

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.4 Making places for worship

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>