

# Scots Church War Memorial



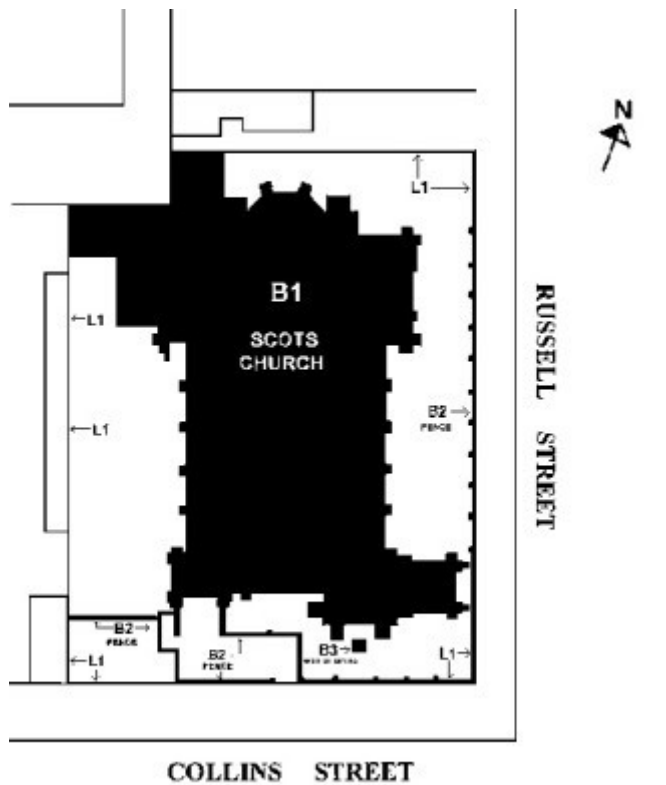
SCOTS CHURCH SOHE  
2008



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2008



1 scots church melb exterior



scots church and fence plan

## Location

140-154 COLLINS STREET MELBOURNE, Melbourne City

## Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

-

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0005

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO578

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 18, 1999

What is significant?

The Rev. James Forbes who arrived from Scotland to minister in the colony held his first service on 3 February, 1838. Rev. Forbes' first church was a temporary wooden building at the west end of Collins Street whilst the congregation applied for an official grant of land. Two acres on the present site were obtained in 1839 and a school was subsequently built. This school also served as a church on Sundays until a proper church building, seating five hundred was built in January 1841. The present Scots church erected to the designs by Reed and Barnes replaced this building on the site. The foundation stone was laid on 1 April, 1873, and the building opened 29 November 1874. David Mitchell, who was the father of the famous Australian soprano-Dame Nellie Melba, at one stage, a chorister in the Choir, built the church. Scots Church is built in the Gothic Revival style. Bluestone was used for the foundations, Barrabool Hills Freestone from Geelong for the superstructure and cream-coloured Kakanui Stone from New Zealand for the dressings. Features of the interior include the basalt aisle columns, rich timber fittings, stained glass windows and carved organ casework. In the last century, the apse was dominated by a stone pulpit and reredos erected as a memorial to Rev. Irving Hetherington (Minister: 1847-1875) and his assistant Rev. Peter Menzies (Minister: 1868-1874). It was Rev. Menzies in particular who played a major part in the design of this church and in the encouragement of the music in the services. In 1928 the pulpit and the lower part of the apse were altered and the current design adopted. Since then, in progressive stages, the original Tasmanian Blackwood panelling has been extended to surround the entire nave, and in the late 1930s the current vestries were added. Following a severe storm in 1963, the top of the spire had been extensively damaged by lightning and lowered by 40 feet. However, in 1989 the exterior stonework was restored, and the spire rebuilt to its original height, regaining its traditionally important position in the Melbourne skyline.

How is it significant?

Scots Church is of social, historical, aesthetic and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Scots Church is of social and historical significance as a focal point for the Presbyterian Church in Victoria and as the site of the original Scots church constructed in 1841. The church is associated with notable churchmen, particularly the Rev. James Forbes who held his first service on 3 February 1838. Scots church is important for its association with David Mitchell who constructed the church, was a prominent Melbourne builder, and whose daughter (later Dame Nellie Melba) sang in the choir.

Scots Church is of aesthetic and architectural significance for its prominent siting and importance in the Melbourne townscape. The church is a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture of the decorated mode, which is unusual amongst Presbyterian Church buildings. The Church is an important design of the prolific Melbourne architects Reed and Barnes who operated as a partnership between 1862 and 1883. Scots Church is important for its elaborate and diverse range of stained glass windows throughout the church. Of particular note are those

by Ferguson & Urie; Vanderpoorten of Brussels and F.X. Zettler of Munich. The carved cedar casework around the organ is important as part of the original church design of Reed and Barnes. It survives as the original portion of Melbourne's largest church organ at the time of its construction in 1874.

Construction dates	1841,
Architect/Designer	Reed & Barnes,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place, Registered object,
Hermes Number	125246
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Scots Church is built in the Academic Gothic style. Bluestone was used for the foundations, Barrabool Hills Freestone from Geelong for the superstructure and cream-coloured Kakanui Stone from New Zealand for the 'dressings'. The church, which is 120 feet long and 68 feet wide, seats 1,000 people in the nave. The 211-foot spire was restored to its original height in 1989. The spire was for many years the highest point in the city. Stone from the Barrabool Hills and Kakanui (New Zealand). Features of the interior include the basalt aisle columns, rich timber fittings and stained glass. It was designed by Reed and Barnes and built in 1873-74, with a spacious nave and sloping floor, transepts, apse, spire to the south-west, and an arcaded gallery in the main gable. The austere interior includes fine timber fittings and stained glass by local and overseas makers. In 1928 the pulpit and the lower part of the Apse were altered and the current design adopted. Since then, in progressive stages, the original Tasmanian Blackwood panelling has been extended to surround the entire nave, and in the late 1930s the current vestries were added in a style appropriate to the rest of the building.

The church is bound on two sides by a cast iron palisade fence with a bluestone base. A war memorial to the Victorian Scottish Regiment who served in both world wars stands in front of the Collins Street elevation.

## Physical Conditions

Scots Church is in excellent condition. In 1928 the pulpit and the lower part of the apse were altered and the current design adopted. Since then, in progressive stages, the original Tasmanian Blackwood panelling has been extended to surround the entire nave, and in the late 1930s the current vestries were added. In 1998 the organ was once again replaced and the cedar casework retained. Following a severe storm in 1963, the top of the spire was extensively damaged by. However, in 1989 the exterior stonework was restored, and the spire rebuilt to its original height. State of the Historic Environment survey report - Condition: Good. See Events.

## Usage/Former Usage

1859 ; Religious ;

## Veterans Description for Public

Situated outside the Scots Church, at 140-154 Collins Street, is a memorial pillar dedicated to memory of officers and men of the Victorian Scottish Regiment who fell in the First World War. The church is a Gothic revival structure built between 1873-74 by David Mitchell to designs by architects Reed and Barnes.

## Extent of Registration

1. All the building marked B1 Scots Church, B2 Fence including bluestone base, lamps and pillars and B3 War Memorial to the Victorian Scottish Regiment on Diagram 601868 held by the Executive Director.

2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 601868 held by the Executive Director being all the land described as Certificates of Title Vol. 5294 Fol. 656 Crown Allotment Eight and part of Crown Allotment 9 Section 11, City of Melbourne, Parish of North Melbourne, County of Bourke.

3. All the objects held within the church as listed below:

The carved cedar organ casework

The Tasmanian blackwood pews

The World War 1 and World War 2 honour board

The following Flags:

The Kings and Queens Colours of the Royal Victorian Scottish Regiment

The Banner of the Old Contemptibles

The Australian Flag

St Andrews Cross of Scotland

The American Flag

The United Kingdom Flag

The Red Cross Flag

*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/>*