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# Former Royal Victorian Volunteer Artillery Drill Hall

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## Location

51 (1) McKillop Street, GEELONG VIC 3220 - Property No 215822

## Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

## Level of significance

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## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1173

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO117

HO118

HO1641

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

A Listed - State Significance

The former Congregational Chapel was erected in 1853-54 for the McKillop Street Independent Congregation to designs by pioneer Geelong architect Benjamin Backhouse. This stucco masonry structure was designed as preaching hall with a classically derived facade of most unusual proportions and detail and surmounted by a restrained central pediment and parapet entablature. The building is one of the earliest surviving works of Backhouse and has important links with the history of the Congregational Church in Victoria. The chapel is now used as a dry cleaning works.

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission Register.

Australian Heritage Commission Register of the National Estate.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register.

## REFERENCES

Geelong Advertiser

25 November, 1853

15th December, 1953

2nd May, 1854

7th July, 1854, tenders called in parts for erection of Independent Chapel.

21st April, 1859, tenders for cement rendering and certain alterations.

12th November, 1878, 'Town Talk' Government intends purchasing the Congregational Church for an orderly Room for the Geelong Artillery Corps, cost ?1000.

Geelong Historical Society, Investigator, Wynd, Ian (ed) 1964-66, vol 1. Sec 3. p.27. 1967. Vol 2 pp 91-92.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - Rear of 51 McKillop street, Geelong

The rectangular plan gable structure of prefabricated iron construction at the rear of 51 McKillop Street was originally manufactured by iron founder Charles D Young and Co. of Edinburgh on the Artillery Reserve in Ryrie Street. As the Drill Hall for the recently formed Royal Victorian Volunteer Artillery Corps. This eight bay structure of cast iron staunchions and horizontal 5" pitch corrugated iron infill panels was later re-erected at McKillop Street in 1879 as the Gun Room behind the Orderly Room of 1853-54. This iron structure is of paramount importance to the history of industrial technology and has similarities with the rear of 'Corio village'

## RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission Register.

Australian Heritage Commission Register of the National Estate.

Historic Buildings Council Register.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register.

## REFERENCES

Herbert, G - Pioneers of Prefabrication: The British Construction in the Nineteenth Century. John Hopkins University Baltimore 1978 for a discussion of the work of Charles D Young and Co. iron founders of Edinburgh; refer pp. 52, 72, 104-106, 164-165.

Alsop, P. F. - Unpublished measured drawing and research notes.

Geelong Advertiser - 30 October - report that Old Orderley Room has been removed from the Artillery Reserve and erected behind the McKillop Street Congregational Church earlier acquired by the government for use as a R.V.V.A. Orderly Room. The iron buildings housed the complement of guns belonging to the Geelong detachment (guns described in detail).

Brownhill, W. R. - The History of Geelong and Corio Bay, Wilke and Co, Melbourne, 1955, pp 638-639.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Geelong - Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study Volume 2, Allan Willingham, 1986; Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study, Volumes 2-5, Graeme Butler, 1991; Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study Volume 1, Graeme Butler, 1993; Greater Geelong - Geelong City Urban Conservation Study, Volume 4(a), Helen Lardner, 1995;
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	125482
Property Number	

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## Veterans Description for Public

The Former Royal Victorian Volunteer Artillery Drill Hall is located in the former Congregational Chapel building, at 51 Mackillop Street Geelong. Behind the Hall is a rectangular plan gable structure of prefabricated iron construction manufactured by iron founder Charles D Young and Co. of Edinburgh. It was originally erected in 1863 on the Artillery Reserve in Ryrie Street. In 1879, it was re-erected in its present position as the Gun Room behind the Orderly Room for the Royal Victorian Volunteer Artillery Corps when the Congregational Chapel was converted for use as a Drill Hall.

The prefabricated building at the rear of the former Congregational Church is a rare example of a prefabricated iron military building, and one of two known works of Charles D. Young of Edinburgh extant in Victoria. Although only part of the building survives, it is one of only a small number of prefabricated iron buildings of this manufacturer remaining in the world.

**The Congregational Church was established in Geelong in 1850 and in 1853 a new building was planned for McKillop Street to unite two congregations. The church was built in 1853-54 to a design by architect Benjamin Backhouse. The building now houses a dry cleaning works.**

*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/>*