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## Congregational Church (Former)



Congregational Church  
(former), Hobsons Bay  
Heritage Study 2006



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### Location

57 Stevedore Street WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

### Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO279

### Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The former Congregational Church, designed by Joseph Schneider and constructed by Goss & Dollman in 1870, at 57 Stevedore Street, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The former Congregational Church, Williamstown is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, it is significant as an illustration of one of the earlier Congregationalist parishes in Victoria and one of the small number to achieve a church of any size outside the Melbourne Independent Church (given their refusal to accept government aid) and hence symbolic of a faith which has now almost disappeared and was always a physical rarity in Victoria. (AHC criteria A4, B2 and G1)

Aesthetically, it is significant as intact example of an early church from a comparatively small group of asymmetrical spired Gothic Revival churches in Victoria. (AHC criteria E1 and F1)

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Architect/Designer Schneider, M.,

Hermes Number 22261

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

Described as 'Decorated Gothic' at its opening, the former Congregational Church is built from basalt rubble and trimmed with Portland cement dressings. Distinguished by its asymmetrically placed bell tower and 83 feet high spire, the main elevation with its three-gable composition, resembles other earlier Congregational and Wesleyan designs, albeit mainly in coloured brickwork. Notable detail includes:

- The nave oculus vent (part of a comprehensive ventilation scheme), traceried main window and a cement crocket pinnacle.
- Internally the ceiling was plastered, the trusses exposed and ornamental and the fittings of varnished and stained, but modest, deal. Leaded quarries surrounded by coloured borders comprised the equally modest windows.

The cement work is in general disrepair; the tower windows have been sheeted over and the fence replaced.

The Church was originally part of a complex that included a manse, Sunday School and Hall, which were situated at the rear. These buildings were demolished in the 1970s and replaced by the existing public car park, which has greatly diminished the historic setting of the church.

## Integrity

External Integrity

*Integrity - Good. Condition - Fair.*

## Physical Description 2

Context

Isolated by an adjacent car park from the generally early Victorian period housing and commercial structures nearby.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Making Suburbs, Forming associations,

### **Physical Description 3**

*Associations*

Congregational Church, Joseph Schneider

*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/>*