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# ST ANDREW'S UNITING CHURCH



23176 St Andrew s Uniting Church 5 Martin St Penshurst 1535



23176 St Andrews Manse former Martin St Penshurst 0854



23176 St Andrews Uniting Church Penshurst 0849



23176 St Andrews Uniting Church Penshurst rear 0853



23176 St Andrews Uniting Church Penshurst side 0852



23176 St Andrews Uniting Church Penshurst side 0855

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## Location

Martin Street PENSHURST, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 23, 2003

What is significant?

St Andrew's Uniting Church, formerly Presbyterian, is located on the west side of Martin Street, in the centre of Penshurst. The bluestone church was completed in 1865 and is built in the Early English version of the Gothic revival style, a departure from the Classical stream previously associated with Presbyterianism. The architect is not known for certain, but J. M. Knight (the Shire of Mount Rouse Engineer and Secretary) and A. Kerr seem very likely. A roughcast fence The gable incorporates an unusual device in contrasting stone, a nimbus around the Burning Bush representing Christ non-figuratively and Eternal Life. The church was associated with major landholders of the district, Mrs Daniel Ritchie of Blackwood laying the foundation stone. The first minister was Rev Robert Falconer. In the later 1880s, the church was associated with the temperance movement through the incumbent, Rev. J. Ringland Anderson, MA. Along with most Presbyterian congregations, St Andrew's Penshurst joined the Uniting Church in the 1970s. The church is in excellent condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

St Andrew's Uniting Church, Martin Street, Penshurst is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Penshurst and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

St Andrews Uniting Church is of historical significance as the expression of the role and position of the Presbyterian Church, and subsequently the Uniting Church, and its congregation in the community for over one hundred and fifty years. It is of architectural significance for its use of the Gothic revival style to express religious values, for the range of its memorials, and as a comparison with the churches of other denominations in Penshurst. It is of particular significance for its rare iconographical use of the nimbus form and abstract Biblical symbolism.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1864,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
Hermes Number	23176
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

St Andrew's Uniting Church Penshurst is in good condition. [The interior has not been inspected.]

## Physical Description 1

St Andrew's Uniting Church is located on the west side of Martin Street, in the centre of the township of Penshurst. The church, built in 1865, is constructed of bluestone in the Gothic Early English Rudimentary style (Lewis, 138). The design is a simple rectangular nave, with an entrance porch and Vestry. Stained glass leadlight lancet windows are positioned between buttresses, which rise in two stages with sloped ends. The window surrounds and buttress ends appear to be made of cement render painted white. The church has an unusual gable of intermediate pitch containing a nimbus, an elliptical relief of the Burning Bush, beautifully carved in contrasting stone in a highly stylised form, with a scroll bearing Latin text below. In traditional iconography, the nimbus shape is reserved for the Divine figure, symbolised obliquely here by the Burning Bush. Internally, the decoration is typically plain and there are important memorials to individuals from the congregation.

The Martin Street boundary has a roughcast rendered front fence and iron gates which were erected in 1936 in

memory of the Pioneering families of the parish. A grey cement brick hall has been erected on the south side of the church, opened in May 1980. in the 1970s. The former manse is located adjacent to the church, but is now in different ownership. St. Andrews Uniting Church retains a good degree of integrity and is in good condition.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

8.6.4 Making places for worship

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Church

## **Integrity**

Excellent degree of integrity

## **Physical Description 2**

Rev. Robert Falconer (or Fawkner), first incumbent from 1863-1869

Rev. Mr Allsworth, second incumbent, 1869-1876

Rev. Andrew Chambers, third incumbent, 1876-1881

Rev, J. R. Anderson MA, fourth incumbent in 1882-1888+, active in the local temperance movement

*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/>*