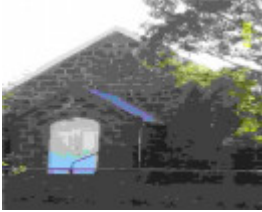

ST ANDREW'S UNITING CHURCH



23297 St Andrews Uniting Ch
Branxholme 0474

Location

Monroe Street, BRANXHOLME VIC 3302 - Property No 0705

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 16, 2003

What is significant?

The St Andrews Uniting Church was built in 1863, the first church to be built in Branxholme. Prior to this, church services of all denominations were held in the school house at varying intervals. It is said to have been built as a Free Presbyterian Church. After a disagreement about the playing of music during services, a part of the congregation broke away to form a new Free Presbyterian congregation and to build a new church. The church is a small bluestone structure in sturdy, almost rustic Gothic revival style. It is in good condition, and retains a good degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

St Andrew's Uniting Church is of historical and architectural significance to the state of Victoria, the Southern Grampians Shire and the township of Branxholme.

Why is it significant?

St Andrew's Uniting Church, formerly a Free Presbyterian and subsequently a Presbyterian Church is of historical significance as one of the few surviving examples of a Free Presbyterian Church in Victoria, demonstrating interdenominational division and the very strong Presbyterian influence in the south-west of the Western District. It is of architectural significance as the work of the Hamilton architect, James Henry Fox.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1862,
Architect/Designer	Fox, James Henry,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
Hermes Number	23297
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The church is in excellent condition externally and internally, including its complete fittings and fixtures.

Physical Description 1

A small bluestone church in a simple but sturdy, almost rustic Gothic revival style of three bays divided by buttresses, which are paired at the corners. It is sited to face eastwards across the valley of the Arrandoovong Creek. The windows are paired and subdivided into small panes, painted white with a border of blue glass. The main part of the windows swivel at their mid point. The bluestone walls are rock faced. There is a small porch at the front with an unusual ogee arched door. There is a circular blind oeuil de boeuf in the front gable. The roofs of the nave and the porch are corrugated iron and pitched at 60 degrees.

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

Fox, James Henry, architect (to be confirmed) of Hamilton
Ewan McNaughton, successful tenderer for building the Church, 1862.
Rev Angus McDonald, Minister of Hamilton

Rev J McRoberts, first Minister, inducted 1863, died Branxholme 1876
Rev Charles Thomson MA, second Minister, from 1876-1881
Rev W C Wallace, third Minister, from 1881-1905, Moderator of Victoria, 1899
Rev R J Houston MA, third Minister, from 1906-1926
Rev J T Roberts, Minister 1957 when new manse was first occupied
Mr. W Armstrong and Mr. W Begg, first Elders

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/>