

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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SOHE 2008



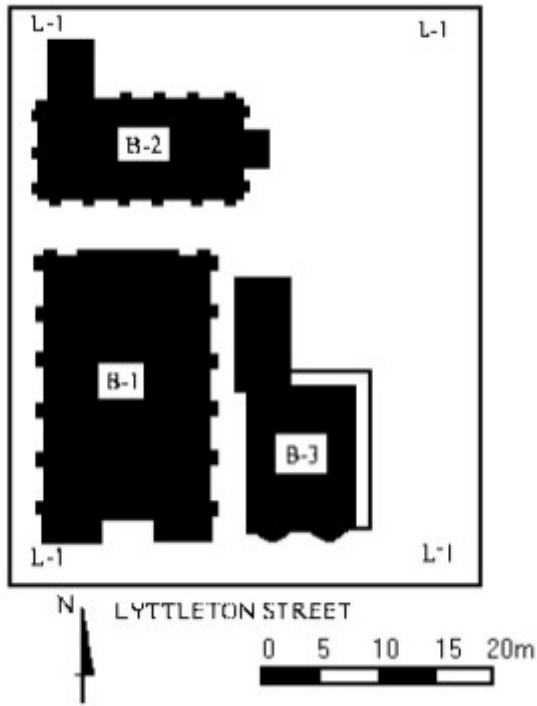
1 congregational church
lyttleton street castlemaine
front view congregational
church



congregational church
lyttleton street castlemaine
detail front congregational
church



congregational church
lyttleton street castlemaine
former church at rear jan1979



presbyterian church complex castlemaine registration plan

Location

11-13 LYTTLETON STREET CASTLEMAINE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0448

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO639

VHR Registration

May 16, 1979

Amendment to Registration

November 20, 1997

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 17, 1999

What is significant?

This complex contains three buildings, constructed for the Congregational, or Independent, church in Castlemaine. The earliest building was constructed in 1855 as a temporary church, Sunday and day school. Designed by architect and surveyor, Clement Wilks, the foundation stone was laid on 7th March 1855 and the building erected towards the rear of a site obtained in Lyttleton Street. In 1857, a manse was built at the front of the site and in 1861-2 the adjacent church was constructed to the design of Castlemaine architect, Edmund Spencer. The foundation stone of this substantial church was laid on 30th September 1861 and, when completed, it superseded the earlier church which was then used as a hall.

The first church building is constructed of unadorned brick and designed in a simple Georgian style. Step buttresses divide the nave into bays, each containing a round-headed paned window. A simple porch, forming the main entrance, is also flanked by stepped buttresses. A timber belfry was originally placed at the apex of the roof.

The manse, built two years later, is a rendered building with slate roof and paned windows, including two polygonal bays facing Lyttleton Street. The house is orientated to the east side of the site with entry and a verandah, with simple timber valence, along this elevation.

The second church, built only six years later, is designed in a Gothic style. It is of deep cream brick with render contrasts and a slate roof. The symmetrical front facade is divided into three bays, with the central nave section featuring a triple lancet window of strongly coloured glass. Two flanking entrance bays contain doors with elaborate wrought iron strap work, and large pinnacles flank the entrance porches and the main facade itself. Paired lancet windows line the aisles and internally cast iron columns support the timber roof trusses. In 1885 the original lath and plaster ceiling was replaced with kauri pine lining boards, a choir gallery was erected and a pipe organ installed. This organ, previously installed at other locations, was sold and removed in 1978-9.

The church became redundant due to unification in the late 1970s and was subsequently purchased by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in 1984.

How is it significant?

The former Congregational Church complex is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The complex is of architectural significance as an illustrative collection of intact church buildings. The 1855 church is of note as an example of an early provincial, goldfields church, designed in a simple Georgian style. The Gothic design of the latter church is highly distinctive, incorporating exaggerated pinnacles, strongly coloured glass and wrought iron strap work. The contrasting styles of the two church buildings are illustrative of the increased wealth generated in provincial Victoria as a result of gold discoveries.

The former Congregational Church complex is of historical significance as a record of the establishment and growth of Congregationalism in a Victorian provincial centre. It is an intact church complex of the mid 19th century which reflects the prosperity engendered by the gold discoveries in Victoria from the 1850s.

[Online Data Upgrade Project 2004]

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

INTERIOR:

Church:

* Nil

Manse and hall:

* Interior painting and wall-papering, provided the preparation work does not remove evidence of the building's original paint or other decorative scheme.

* Removal or installation of flexible floor coverings such as carpets and linoleum.

* Installation of curtain tracks, rods, blinds and other window dressings.

* Installation of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of paintings, mirrors and other wall-mounted works of art.

* Refurbishment of bathroom/toilet/ensuites including removal of existing sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, and wall and floor coverings, and installation of new fixtures, and wall and floor coverings.

* Removal of existing kitchen benches and fixtures (stoves, dishwashers etc.) and floor coverings and installation of new kitchen benches and fixtures, including associated plumbing and wiring.

* Installation of hydronic, or concealed radiant type heating, provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings, architraves and the location of the heating unit (boiler etc.) is concealed from view.

* Installation of bulk insulation to the roof space.

* Re-wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, or GPOs are retained in-situ.

* Installation of smoke detectors.

* Installation of damp-proofing by a method approved by Heritage Victoria.

EXTERIOR:

* Removal of air-conditioners/pipework/wiring/antennae/aerials/and making good.

* Fencing and gates may be altered, extended or replaced provided the materials remain the same.

* Installation of garden watering systems.

* Laying of gravel toppings, bitumen, concrete, brick or stone flag paving. General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1855, 1857, 1861,
Architect/Designer	Spencer, Edward,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
Hermes Number	265
Property Number	

History

This complex contains three buildings, constructed for the Congregational, or Independent, church in Castlemaine. The earliest building was constructed in 1855 as a temporary church, Sunday and day school. Designed by architect and surveyor, Clement Wilks, the foundation stone was laid on 7th March 1855 and the building erected towards the rear of a site obtained in Lyttleton Street. In 1857, a manse was built at the front of the site and in 1861-2 the adjacent church was constructed to the design of Castlemaine architect, Edmund Spencer. The foundation stone of this substantial church was laid on 30th September 1861 and, when completed, it superseded the earlier church which was then used as a hall.

The church became redundant due to unification in the late 1970s and was subsequently purchased by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in 1984.

The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2004. Sources were as follows:

M. Lewis. *Victorian Churches*. Melbourne 1991

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Q Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 46a that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 448 in the category described as a Heritage Place is now described as:

Presbyterian Church complex, 11-13 Lyttleton Street, Castlemaine, Mt Alexander Shire Council.

EXTENT

1. All of the buildings known as the Presbyterian Church complex marked as follows on Diagram 602002 held by the Executive Director:

B-1 Church

B-2 Hall

B-3 Manse.

2. All of the land marked L-1 on Diagram 602002 held by the Executive Director being the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 1848, Folio 411.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G46 20 November 1997 p3200]

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/>