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# ST THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH & PARISH HALL



St Thomas' Anglican Church & Parish Hall image229

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## Location

7 DUTTON STREET, TOORA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 20, 2022

### What is significant?

St. Thomas' Anglican Church designed by Smith & Johnson and constructed in two stages in 1892 and 1910, and the Parish Hall constructed in 1932, at 7 Dutton Street, Toora, are significant. St Thomas' is a simple two bay Victorian Gothic Revival church with a steeply pitched roof and gabled porch. The church building features lancet windows with a gothic window at projecting gable end. The church also has stepped buttresses and a foundation stone to the right of the porch. The parish hall of 1932 is a simple gabled building with walls lined in battened cement sheet with a weatherboard dado.

Non-original alterations and additions, other than those specified above, are not significant.

### How is it significant?

St. Thomas' Anglican Church and Parish Hall is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to South Gippsland Shire.

### Why is it significant?

Historically, St. Thomas' is the oldest Anglican church in the South Gippsland Shire and is associated with the foundation and establishment of the Church of England in Gippsland. As a foundation church it assisted with the establishment of churches that followed at Hedley and Welshpool. It is also one of the oldest buildings in Toora and demonstrates the early development of the town. The Parish Hall is associated with improvements made in time for the 40th anniversary celebrations of the church and the stages of building demonstrate the growth of both the Anglican Church community and Toora in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. (Criterion A) Aesthetically, the church is a simple Victorian Gothic Church with typical form and details including the steeply pitched roof, buttressed walls, and lancet windows and is of note as the only early church within the South Gippsland Shire constructed of brick. It is an historic landmark within Toora. (Criteria B & E) It has social significance for its strong and enduring associations with the Toora community through its use as an Anglican Church and parish centre for over 120 years. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1892, 1910, 1931, 1892, 1910, 1932, 1892, 1910, 1932,
Architect/Designer	Smith & Johnson, Mr. Uebergang,
Other Names	-,
Hermes Number	30995
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

St Thomas's Anglican Church, at 7 Dutton Street, Toora, built in 1892, is a simple two bay brick Victorian Gothic church with a steeply pitched roof, external buttresses and a matching gable porch with a door at the front. It was apparently constructed in stages to the design of Smith and Johnson, architects, the first stage being only one third of the planned building. It is difficult to interpret this information as one third of the existing small church would be very little indeed. It is possible that the planned building was much larger than what was finally built.

The present building is of two bays with a lancet window in each and a Gothic window in the gable end above the porch. The building is undecorated apart from a small finial at the ridge (which may not be original). The porch door is approached by rendered steps of later origin. The front wall has been rendered, but the balance is of face brick. The whole building has been painted white.

The Parish Hall, constructed in 1932 is a gabled stud frame structure lined in battened cement sheet with a weatherboard dado and a slightly projecting gable end.

*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/>*