
Stawell Scout Hall (former St. Mark's Presbyterian Church), 20 Alfred Street, STAWELL



SL 002a - Stawell Scout Hall (former St. Mark's Presbyterian Church), 20 Alfred Street, STAWELL



SL 002b -Stawell Historical Society Collection.

Location

20 Alfred Street STAWELL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 18, 2004

The Stawell Scout Hall building makes a significant contribution to the local streetscape. Located at 20 Alfred Street, this former St. Mark's Presbyterian Church building was built in 1874. By the early 1880s, Stawell could not support two Presbyterian Churches and this building was used as a Temperance Hall for a time. Later, for around 60 years, the building became the home of the Plymouth Brethren, and then the location of the Stawell Scouts. Apart from some minor alterations, the building is largely intact.

The Stawell Scout Hall is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an eclectic rudimentary Victorian Romanesque style. These qualities include the parapetted gable roof form, single storey height, symmetrical composition and unpainted brick wall construction. Other intact qualities include the main gable end with its central bay having a pointed door opening crowned by brick voussoirs, three round-headed lancet windows and flanking buttresses, series of concrete steps with side base walls, brick buttresses and narrow round-headed windows on the side elevations, granite base, white-painted freestone dressings (stringcourses, copings and corbelled gable ends), galvanised corrugated iron roof cladding and the ventilation dormers.

The Stawell Scout Hall is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the development of the Presbyterian Church in the 1870s and with the Rechabites in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. It is also associated with the Scouting movement in Stawell in the late twentieth century.

The Stawell Scout Hall is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised and valued by sections of the Stawell community for religious and recreational reasons.

Overall, the Stawell Scout Hall is of **LOCAL** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Other Names	St. Mark's Presbyterian Church,
Hermes Number	111991
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The former St. Mark's Presbyterian Church site in Alfred Street, Stawell, is dominated by the brick Scout Hall building, formerly the Presbyterian Church. The site is bound by an introduced tubular steel and cyclone wire fence that is approximately 1200 mm high. The grounds are plain, being largely concreted and grassed open areas, with one corner of the site accommodating an introduced shade structure and wood chips.

The symmetrical, single storey, unpainted brick, eclectic rudimentary Victorian Romanesque styled former Church building is characterised by a parapetted, gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated iron. The main gable end has a central bay flanked by brick buttresses. This bay includes a central pointed door opening crowned by early brick voussoirs (and painted). The doors appear to have been introduced. Above the door opening is a group of three round-headed lancet windows. The main entrance is accessed by a series of concrete steps with side base walls. Flanking the central bay are single round-headed lancets and brick buttresses. All the windows on the main gable end have been boarded over. The side elevations are characterised by brick buttresses with narrow round-headed windows between.

Early decorative features of the design include the white-painted free stone dressings such as the stringcourses, copings and corbelled gable ends. The roofline is adorned with ventilation dormers. The building rests on a granite base that further contributes to the dichromatic constructional decoration.

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/>