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# St. Matthews Uniting Church, 9-13 Scallan Street, STAWELL



SL 280 - St. Matthew's Uniting Church (former Presbyterian Church)



SL 280a - Stawell Historical Society Collection.



SL 280b - Stawell Historical Society Collection.



SL 280c - Stawell Historical Society Collection.



SL 280d - Stawell Historical Society Collection.



SL 280e - Stawell Historical Society Collection.



SL 280f - Stawell Historical Society Collection.

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## Location

11-13 SCALLAN STREET STAWELL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO16

## Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 29, 2024

### What is significant?

### How is it significant?

### Why is it significant?

St. Matthew's Uniting Church, 9-13 Scallan Street, Stawell, makes a highly significant contribution to the visual and architectural amenity of the local area. The Victorian Free Decorated Gothic styled Church building was constructed in 1868 to a design by Robert Alexander Love, architect of Pleasant Creek and Sandhurst. Apart from the rear Community Centre addition, the building is externally largely intact, and is identified by its landmark tower and spire, stained glass window by Messrs Fergusson, Urie and Co. of Melbourne, distinctive pipe organ by J.E. Dodd of Adelaide, and many other original features.

St. Matthew's Uniting Church is **architecturally** and **aesthetically** significant at a **STATE** level. It demonstrates many original qualities of a Free Decorated Gothic style. These qualities include the unpainted locally-made brick wall construction, granite base, Portland cement dressings and particularly the parapeted steeply pitched gable roof form and the imposing centrally placed octagonal tower and spire. Other intact qualities include the slate roof cladding, ventilation dormers in the tower and spire and along the gable ridgeline, pointed double timber doors with incised decorative Gothic relief, Free Decorated tracery window adorned with leadlighting, memorial tablet with the inscription "St. Matthew's A.D. 1868", blind oculi in tower, pointed ventilator, lancet windows, projecting brick buttresses, pointed windows, with smaller pointed clerestorey windows in the upper reaches of the walls. (all containing diamond lights and variously coloured borders), rectangular apse, decorative features (drip moulds and quoinwork about the window and door openings, projecting buttress pediments, copings, bosses and the circular turrets that crown the recessed buttresses on the main facade). The interior of the building also contributes to the architectural and aesthetic significance of the place. The significant internal features include the open timber scissor roof trusses, plastered imitation stonework wall finish, timber wainscot dados surmounted by Gothic mouldings, timber screen, stained glass war memorial window by Messrs Brooks, Robinson and Co. of Melbourne, pipe organ by J.E. Dodd of Adelaide, pointed stained glass window by Messrs Fergusson, Urie and Co. of Melbourne, timber choir stalls and a central timber platform pulpit decorated with Gothic panel enrichments and the Kauri timber seating.

St. Matthew's Uniting Church is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the development of the Presbyterian Church in Stawell, particularly from 1868. The Church also has associations with Robert Alexander Love, architect of Bendigo and temporarily of Pleasant Creek, together with Thomas Moriarty (bricklayer and stonemason), R.M. Hassell (carpenter), and H. Williams (plasterer and slater).

St. Matthew's Uniting Church is **scientifically** significant at a **STATE** level. The original pipe organ by J.E. Dodd of Adelaide, stained glass war memorial window by Brooks, Robinson and Co. of Melbourne, and the stained glass window by Messrs Fergusson, Urie and Co. of Melbourne illustrate rare and intact artistic displays and technology.

St. Matthew's Uniting Church is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised and valued by the Stawell community for religious reasons.

Overall, St. Matthew's Uniting Church is of **STATE** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004; Stawell Main Street Precinct peer review, Landmark Heritage PL, 2024;
Hermes Number	112678
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The St. Matthew's Uniting Church site at 9-13 Scallan Street, Stawell, makes a significant contribution to the local streetscape and is visually connected to the Baptist Church and St. Peter's Lutheran Church that are also situated in Scallan Street. The site is identified by a large brick church with a landmark tower and spire. The Church grounds form a large open carpark with some plantings to one side. The front is bound by an introduced brick fence with flanking entrance piers crowned with lamps, neighbouring brick Sunday School hall, together with substantial lawn areas and mature trees.

The unpainted locally-made brick, Victorian Free Decorated Gothic styled Uniting Church building is especially characterised by a parapeted steeply pitched gable roof form and an imposing, centrally placed octagonal tower and spire. The 40 foot high roof form is clad in early slate, with ventilation dormers adorning the ridgeline of the church gable. The tower is also constructed of unpainted brick, while the steeple is rendered in Portland cement. The base of the tower forms a square and is flanked by projecting brick buttresses on the main elevation which terminate as four turrets where the tower changes form to an octagon on which is surmounted the steeple, the whole being 133 feet in height. The three dimensional form of the tower is defined by the projecting minor gable end. At the base of the square portion of the tower is the early pointed double timber doors with incised decorative Gothic relief. Above the door is a Free Decorated tracery window adorned with leadlighting. A tablet with the inscription "St. Matthew's A.D. 1868" surmounts the window. The tower's octagonal base has a blind oculi (initially built to accommodate a clock face) and pointed gable ventilator with additional, much smaller dormer ventilators located on the spire.

The symmetrical composition of the main elevation is identified by the flanking lancet windows that are located over two levels that light the stair rooms either side of the tower. These flanking rooms are terminated at the corners by angled buttresses.

The side elevations of the building are characterised by eleven projecting brick buttresses that diminish as they rise. Between the buttresses are pointed windows, with smaller pointed clerestorey windows in the upper reaches of the walls. These double rows of windows contain diamond lights within, with variously coloured borders.

The rear of the building is identified by the central unpainted brick, rectangular apse adorned with angled buttresses. The community centre building has been added.

Other early external decorative features of the design include the Portland cement dressings and enrichments, as identified in the drip moulds and quoinwork about the window and door openings, projecting buttress pediments, copies, bosses and in the circular turrets that crown the recessed buttress.

*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/>