
Church of Christ, 18 Sloane Street, STAWELL



SL 344 - Church of Christ, 18 Sloane Street (corner Skene Street), STAWELL



SL 344a - Stawell Historical Society Collection.

Location

18 Sloane 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 27, 2004

The Church of Christ building, 18 Sloane Street, makes an important architectural and historical contribution to this local area in Stawell. Designed by George Inskip and constructed in 1872 as the Lyceum Hall, it heralded the first place of worship in Victoria for the Progressive Spiritualists. It also hosted the foundation meeting of the Stawell Miners Association in the same year. Purchased by the Primitive Methodists in 1876, the hall served as a place of worship until after the union of the Methodist Church in 1902. It was acquired by the Church of Christ in 1908 and in the latter 20th century it has experienced substantial additions and alterations at the front, but still serves as the place of worship for the Stawell Church of Christ.

The Church of Christ building is **architecturally** significant at a **LOCAL** level. Although altered, it still demonstrates original design qualities of a rudimentary Victorian style. These qualities include the parapeted

gable roof form and the projecting pilasters (which punctuate the parapet capping) and broad upper level stringcourse. Other intact qualities include the narrow round arched windows, moulded stringcourses, window sills and curved parapet ends on the side elevations.

The Church of Christ building is **historically** significant at a **STATE** level. It has associations with the development of the Progressive Spiritualists in Stawell from 1872, representing the first place of worship for this organization in Victoria. It also has associations with the Stawell Miners' Association who held their foundation meeting in the building in the same year. The building also has associations with the development of the Primitive Methodist Church until 1902, and from 1908 as the place of worship for the Church of Christ. In the 1960s and 1970s, the building experienced a number of alterations and additions. There are further associations with George Inskip, architect of Melbourne and Pleasant Creek, who designed the original Lyceum Hall building.

The Church of Christ building is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised and valued by members of the Stawell community for religious and cultural reasons.

Overall, the Church of Christ building 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;
Hermes Number	112786
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Church of Christ site, Sloane Street, contributes to an understanding of the historical and architectural development in this part of Stawell. The site is dominated by the former Lyceum Theatre building, as well as the early rear gable additions and the later gabled additions at the front.

The single storey, rendered brick, rudimentary Victorian styled Church of Christ building is characterised by a parapeted gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated iron. The main gable end has been altered to allow for the more recent front addition. Evidence of the original design is identified by the projecting pilasters (which punctuate the parapet capping) and broad upper level stringcourse. The central bay is also distinguished by the name plate that reads: "Church of Christ". The side elevations of the original building are characterised by narrow round arched windows which interrupt a moulded stringcourse at the springing of the window arches. The window sills appear to be constructed of masonry.

The other early decorative feature of the design is the curved parapet end on the side elevation, near the corner of the main gable end.

The gable addition at the rear has a simple galvanised corrugated iron roof with rendered brick wall construction and timber framed double hung windows. The front additions represent much later work and have impacted on the architectural integrity and significance of the original building.

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/>