

# SCOTS UNITING CHURCH



SCOTS UNITING CHURCH SOHE 2008



Scots Uniting Church Campbellfield  
February 2005



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presbyterian church sydney rd  
campbellfield grounds



Scots Church



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**Location**

1702-1708 SYDNEY ROAD CAMPBELLFIELD, Hume City

**Municipality**

HUME CITY

### **Level of significance**

Registered

### **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H0127

### **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO3

### **VHR Registration**

October 9, 1974

### **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - June 9, 2004

### **What is significant?**

Scots Church was established in Campbellfield on five acres of land donated to the Presbyterian Church by pastoralist Neil Campbell in 1842. In that year a timber church was constructed on this site located on the newly surveyed route of Sydney Road, to serve a predominantly Scottish-born congregation.

The second minister of the church was Reverend Peter Gunn, who was greatly involved with the Presbyterian church when he accepted a call to the Campbellfield church in 1845. He remained at this church until his death in 1864, and is buried in the church grounds. A bluestone manse was built for Gunn in 1850 and a bluestone church replaced the original church in 1855. Both of these buildings were designed by architect, Charles Laing. A cemetery, for burial of Presbyterian members of the congregation, was also developed on the site, with the earliest surviving headstone erected in 1846. The majority of graves were constructed in the period from 1855 to 1895.

The development of the site coincided with the growth of Campbellfield in the early 1850s into a settlement of several hundred people. The continual improvement of Sydney Road aided its development, and by the 1860s it was the largest settlement before Kilmore, despite not being an official township.

In 1908 a new brick manse was constructed to replace the earlier one which had fallen into disrepair. The former manse was abandoned at this time and the foundations still exist on the site, forming an area of archaeological interest.

The church is a small bluestone Tudor Gothic building which incorporates a castellated tower, narrow rectangular windows and a low pitched, slate roof. It is a simple rectangular building with transepts at one end, forming a T-plan. The nave of the church has been closed off from the transepts to form a smaller church.

The cemetery contains about twenty grave sites with a variety of sandstone, white marble and granite headstones and cast iron fences, generally designed in a restrained manner. These represent a number of families with some headstones replaced as family members died. There appears to be no plan for the layout of graves, with no obvious path system or planting scheme. The graves are located in two groups, and all headstones face north.

### **How is it significant?**

The Scots Church, Campbellfield is of historical, architectural and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria.

### **Why is it significant?**

The Scots Church, Campbellfield is of historical significance as one of the oldest church buildings in Victoria. It is of historical significance due to its construction on the site of the third Scots Church established in Victoria and its representation of the dominant Scottish population who settled in the area.

The Scots Church is of historical significance as a rare example of a churchyard cemetery in Victoria. By the time of European settlement, such cemeteries had become less popular and few were developed in the State. Dating back to at least 1846, the Scots Church example may be the only private Presbyterian burial ground in the State and it contains the graves of many of the original Scottish settlers in the vicinity. Other extant suburban churchyard cemeteries include St Andrew's Church of England, Brighton; St Katherine's Church of England, Greensborough and the Lutheran Church, Thomastown.

It is of historical significance due to its association with Peter Gunn, an influential leader of the Presbyterian Church, and Moderator in 1851 and 1854. He was an important figure in the merging of two streams of Presbyterianism in the 1850s, and as a Gaelic speaking minister, he had a strong following among Scottish immigrants. He was also the father of well known writer, Mrs Aeneas Gunn. The site contains remnants of his manse, the church built during his ministership, and his grave and that of some of his family members.

The Scots Church, Campbellfield is of architectural significance as one of the few surviving works of early Melbourne architect, Charles Laing, who designed the first Free Presbyterian church in Swanston Street in 1847-8. It is typical of the modest and unsophisticated style of Laing and other architects of the time. The Scots Church, Campbellfield is of unusual design with its incorporation of a castellated tower in the centre of the transept end of the church, and narrow rectangular windows in the tower, transepts and nave.

The Scots Church, Campbellfield is of archaeological significance due to the presence on site of the remains of the foundations of the original 1850 manse, which predates the other buildings on site and was designed by the same architect as the church. It provides further information about the early history of the site and has the potential to yield information on pre-gold rush building techniques.

*[Online Data Upgrade Project 2004]*

## **Permit Exemptions**

<span class="c1">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.</span> <span class="c1">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.</span> <p class="c1">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.</p> <span class="c1">General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.</span> <span class="c1">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.</span> <span class="c1">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,
Architect/Designer	Laing, Charles,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
Hermes Number	192
Property Number	

## History

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

A. Selenitsch. *Report on Scots Church Graveyard, Campbellfield*. 1984

A. Lemon. *Broadmeadows, A Forgotten History*. Melbourne 1982

I. Stuart. *Report on Investigations of the Old Manse at Scots Church, Campbellfield*. 1986

L. R. Moore. *A History of Scots Church Campbellfield since 1842*. undated

C. Sagazio. *Cemeteries: Our Heritage*. Melbourne 1992

## Extent of Registration

*City of Broadmeadows*. No. 127. Presbyterian Church, Campbellfield, 1702-1708 Sydney Road, Campbellfield. [Victoria Government Gazette No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3648]

*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/>*