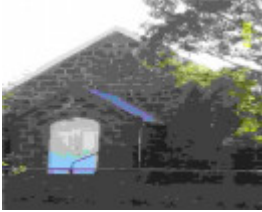


---

# ST ANDREW'S UNITING CHURCH



23297 St Andrews Uniting Ch  
Branxholme 0474

---

## Location

Monroe Street, BRANXHOLME VIC 3302 - Property No 0705

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 16, 2003

What is significant?

The St Andrews Uniting Church was built in 1863, the first church to be built in Branxholme. Prior to this, church services of all denominations were held in the school house at varying intervals. It is said to have been built as a Free Presbyterian Church. After a disagreement about the playing of music during services, a part of the congregation broke away to form a new Free Presbyterian congregation and to build a new church. The church is a small bluestone structure in sturdy, almost rustic Gothic revival style. It is in good condition, and retains a good degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

St Andrew's Uniting Church is of historical and architectural significance to the state of Victoria, the Southern Grampians Shire and the township of Branxholme.

Why is it significant?

St Andrew's Uniting Church, formerly a Free Presbyterian and subsequently a Presbyterian Church is of historical significance as one of the few surviving examples of a Free Presbyterian Church in Victoria, demonstrating interdenominational division and the very strong Presbyterian influence in the south-west of the Western District. It is of architectural significance as the work of the Hamilton architect, James Henry Fox.

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002; |
| Construction dates        | 1862,  |
| Architect/Designer        | Fox, James Henry,  |
| Heritage Act Categories   | Registered place,  |
| Other Names               | ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,   |
| Hermes Number             | 23297  |
| Property Number           |  |

---

## Physical Conditions

The church is in excellent condition externally and internally, including its complete fittings and fixtures.

## Physical Description 1

A small bluestone church in a simple but sturdy, almost rustic Gothic revival style of three bays divided by buttresses, which are paired at the corners. It is sited to face eastwards across the valley of the Arrandoovong Creek. The windows are paired and subdivided into small panes, painted white with a border of blue glass. The main part of the windows swivel at their mid point. The bluestone walls are rock faced. There is a small porch at the front with an unusual ogee arched door. There is a circular blind oeuil de boeuf in the front gable. The roofs of the nave and the porch are corrugated iron and pitched at 60 degrees.

## Historical Australian Themes

- Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
- 8.6 Worshipping
- 8.6.1 Worshipping together
- 8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions
- 8.6.4 Making places for worship

## Usage/Former Usage

church

## Integrity

Excellent degree of integrity.

## Physical Description 2

Fox, James Henry, architect (to be confirmed) of Hamilton  
Ewan McNaughton, successful tenderer for building the Church, 1862.  
Rev Angus McDonald, Minister of Hamilton

Rev J McRoberts, first Minister, inducted 1863, died Branxholme 1876  
Rev Charles Thomson MA, second Minister, from 1876-1881  
Rev W C Wallace, third Minister, from 1881-1905, Moderator of Victoria, 1899  
Rev R J Houston MA, third Minister, from 1906-1926  
Rev J T Roberts, Minister 1957 when new manse was first occupied  
Mr. W Armstrong and Mr. W Begg, first Elders

*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/>*