
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (FORMER)



23604 Presbyterian Church
Former Dunkeld 0156

Location

65 Wills Street and Templeton Street DUNKELD, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 1, 2004

What is significant?

The former Dunkeld Presbyterian Church now houses the Dunkeld and District Historical Society. The building is located in the south-east corner of Wills and Templeton Street, one block south of the Glenelg Highway, in the central grid of the township. The former church is a simple primitive version of the Gothic Revival style, and includes the main church with a vestry at the rear and a later porch at the front. The construction combines bluestone walls with Grampians sandstone quoins. There are no buttresses but the side walls have three lancet windows, now modified on the east elevation for extensions, and the vestry has one. The arches of the windows are treated as simple trefoils. The roofs of the nave, vestry and porch are gabled and clad with corrugated iron. The main gable has a simple finial. The building has been extended on the east side and the interiors have been modified to convert it into a museum and meeting rooms. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design of the structure. In later years, the vestry of the church was used as a police station after the devastating 1944 bushfires which burnt much of the township. In recent years the former church has been used

by the Dunkeld and District Historical Society. The Historical Society have placed a collection of historical records and objects within the building, as a museum collection. These include the burnt stump of a tree carved with dates by Granville Stapylton, the second-in-command of Major Mitchell's, when they camped at nearby Lake Repose on 3rd October 1836. The church and the collection survive in good condition, and both retain a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The former Presbyterian Church is of historical, architectural and social significance to the township of Dunkeld and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant? The former Presbyterian Church is of social significance to the township of Dunkeld as the focus for the strong Presbyterian population who settled the area in the mid to late nineteenth century.

Historically, it is significant for demonstrating the strong Presbyterian faith in the Shire. Architecturally, it demonstrates a style of building which is typical of Presbyterian churches in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Of further historical significance is its use after the 1944 bushfires, when the vestry at the rear of the structure was used to house the police station, which had been destroyed by fire. Its use as a historical society is also of historical and social significance, as this provides an important focus for the people of Dunkeld and surrounding districts, and provides a tangible link with the past.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1865,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23604
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The building is in good condition.

Physical Description 1

The original church was a very simple stone structure in a primitive version of the Gothic revival style. In plan it is approximately 5m x 10m and it is 7m high to the ridge line. There is a vestry at the rear and a later porch at the front. The construction combines bluestone walls with Grampians sandstone quoins. There are no buttresses but the side walls have three lancet windows, now modified on the east elevation for extensions, and the vestry has one. The arches of the windows are treated as simple trefoils. The roofs of the nave, vestry and porch are gabled and clad with corrugated iron. The main gable has a simple finial. The building has been extended on the east side and the interiors have been modified to convert it into a museum and meeting rooms.

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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

8.8 Remembering the fallen

Usage/Former Usage

Historical Society rooms and museum.

Integrity

Good degree of integrity externally but compromised internally.

Physical Description 2

Rev Robert Falconer, first Minister
Rev R W McCully, Minister from 1871 to 1875
Rev. G D Lee, Minister from 1875 to 1903, inducted 1878
Rev J S Jaffrey, Minister from 1903 to 1909
Rev W Chapman, Minister from 1909 to 1917
Rev C Attwood, Minister from 1917 to 1925
Rev J P Hamilton, Minister from 1925 to 1928
Rev R I Morris, Minister from 1928 to 1931
Rev A J Henderson, Minister from 1931 to 1937
Rev James P Gillan, Minister from 1937 to 1944 who resigned after the 1944 bush fire.
William Yound, church secretary for 52 years.

Physical Description 3

Lot 1, LP 143421

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/>