
Free Presbyterian Church



26675 Free Presbyterian Church

Location

Brown Street HAMILTON, 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 -

SIGNIFICANCE: » Important for its historical associations with the staunch Calvinist branch of Presbyterianism, the expression of those principles in its architecture and for its dominant role in the streetscape.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Free Presbyterian Church
Brown Street

The Free Presbyterian Gaelic Church (or the Free Church of Scotland) is of local significance for its simple Gothic Revival architecture and for its historical associations. The Presbyterian congregation in Hamilton had formed in

1854 including some of the most important early pioneers. It was granted land opposite the Church of England at the corner of Gray and McIntyre Streets where a church was started in 1857. ([i]) A staunchly Calvinist breakaway group formed a new congregation in 1859. ([ii]) Its Free Presbyterian Church was built in Brown Street some time after 1860 on land originally sold to or reserved for the congregation in the same year. ([iii]) This congregation, compared with that of St Andrew's, always remained small and at times barely managed to stay in existence. ([iv])

The austere architecture of the building reflects the principles of the congregation. It is very simple and is without any decoration. The "west window" is remarkably abstract. There is no garden. The building remains significantly intact, although the brickwork has been painted, and is in good condition. It is a critical part of the streetscape and is the only religious building in the commercial area around Gray Street but relates to the nearby Uniting Church in Lonsdale Street.

[i] Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 43. This would later be the site of the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

[ii] Ibid, p 63.

[iii] This may be incorrect because the *Parish Plan* is indistinct.

[iv] Garden, p 127.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - City of Hamilton Conservation Study, Timothy Hubbard with Carlotta Kellaway & Michael Looker (plus Francis Punch), 1991;
Construction dates	1859,
Hermes Number	26675
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

MATERIALS:

Roof: »corrugated iron

Walls: »brick (painted)

Dressings: »brick

Plinth: »brick

Windows: »fixed timber

Paving: »concrete

Other: »timber door

Physical Description 2

NOTABLE FEATURES:» "west window" and simplicity of detailing

Integrity

INTEGRITY:G

CONDITION:G

Historical Australian Themes

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1860s

Religion: Presbyterianism

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/>