

# ST PAUL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND & PARISH HALL



St Paul's Church of England



St Paul's Church of England



St Paul's Church of England Hall



St Paul's Church of England foundation stone



St Paul's Church of England



St. Paul's Hall



St. Paul's Church of England

## Location

28 & 30 VICTORIA ROAD, LOCH, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2022

### What is significant?

The former St. Paul's Church of England, at 30 Victoria Road, Loch, designed by Gawler & Drummond and built in 1927, and the hall constructed in 1958 is significant. The church is a small Interwar Arts & Crafts Gothic masonry church with walls finished in roughcast render. The principal facade facing west toward the church hall is dominated by a jerkinhead gable, and the tall window that takes up most of this elevation, with three lower panes and two highlights divided by a heavy projecting mullion and transom that forms a large cross. This is echoed by a small metal cross on the roof. The eaves framing this window have expressed purlins and decorative timber brackets. The entrance porch, which has a steep hipped roof pierced by piers that extend above its eaves, in a form characteristic of the Arts & Crafts style and double ledged doors set within a pointed-arched opening with a smooth rendered surround. The piers are rendered the same as the rest of the building and have small tile detail near the top. Other key features include:

- The semi-octagonal apse at the east end, and the vestry on the south side.
- The steep roof, which is continuous with the apse, and has expressed rafter tails of simple form (also used on the hipped roofs of the porch and vestry) and an original ridge ventilator.
- The wall bays, which are expressed by shallow, narrow engaged buttresses, finished in the same roughcast render as the rest of the walls.
- The masonry steps to the entrance with a metal pipe railing that appears to be original.
- The windows to the sides and apse, which have pointed heads in moulded surrounds. Some windows are paired, each with a pointed head inscribed within a larger pointed-head surround. Between their pointed heads is a small, diamond shaped window, which is a very idiosyncratic detail, abstracting Gothic tracery forms. The paired windows to the apse also have an applied trefoil detail to the top sashes.
- The dedication stone dated 4 November 1926 below the North -Eastern apse window.

The former Parish Hall, built in 1958, a simple gabled structure with roughcast rendered walls linking it visually to the church. It stands on the west side of the church. Originally, the only feature of the gable-fronted facade was a recessed porch reached by a short flight of steps with double timber ledged doors, with a simple flat hood sheltering the entrance. The side elevations had small double-hung sash windows, singly and in pairs. The roof is clad with corrugated metal, with a metal ridge vent.

Non-original alterations and additions are not significant.

### How is it significant?

The former St. Paul's Church of England and Hall, Loch is of historic, aesthetic and social significance to South Gippsland Shire.

### Why is it significant?

Historically, the church and hall served the Anglican community for over 60 years and played an important role in community and social life. They are also associated with the development of Loch in the twentieth century and reflects its importance as a community centre. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the church is the finest example in South Gippsland Shire of an Interwar Arts & Crafts Gothic church, and a building whose modest size belies its sophisticated detailing. It is one of a series of churches designed by Gawler & Drummond that demonstrate their skill with the Arts & Crafts. Notable features include the Jerkinhead gable, the piers that extend above the eaves, the finely detailed windows with abstracted Gothic tracery forms, and the tall window to the west facade with heavy projecting mullion and transom that forms a large cross. The church is an historic landmark that, along with the adjacent Parish Hall, contributes to the character of Loch. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1927, 1958, 1927, 1958, 1927, 1958,
Architect/Designer	Gawler & Drummond,
Other Names	-,
Hermes Number	30866
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

St Paul's Church of England at Loch is a small interwar Arts & Crafts Gothic masonry church with walls finished in roughcast render. It is located on the south-west corner of Victoria Road and Clarence Street with its principal facade facing west, toward the former church hall. This facade is dominated by a jerkin-head gable instead of the simple gable usually seen on churches. The jerkin-head gable is medieval in origin, seen extensively in Central Europe, and was popular for Arts & Crafts designs both of residences and public buildings.

The building has a semi-octagonal apse at the east end, an enclosed entrance porch on the north side, facing Victoria Road, and a vestry on the south side. The steep roof is continuous with the apse, and it has expressed rafter tails of simple form. The hipped roofs of the porch and vestry have the same rafter tails. The wall bays are expressed by shallow, narrow engaged buttresses, finished in the same roughcast render as the rest of the walls. The entrance porch has a steep hipped roof pierced by piers that extend above its eaves, in a form characteristic of the Arts & Crafts style. The piers are rendered the same as the rest of the building and have small tile detail near the top. The entrance is reached via masonry steps with a metal pipe railing that appears to be original. The entrance to the porch is through double ledged doors set within a pointed-arched opening with a smooth rendered surround. The windows to the sides and apse also have pointed heads in moulded surrounds. Some windows are paired, each with a pointed head inscribed within a larger pointed-head surround. Between their pointed heads is a small, diamond shaped window, which is a very idiosyncratic detail, abstracting Gothic tracery forms. The paired windows to the apse also have an applied trefoil detail to the top sashes. Below the northeastern apse window is the dedication stone, dated 4 November 1926.

The window to the principal, west, facade differs from the rest of the building. It is quite tall and takes up most of this elevation, with three lower panes and two highlights divided by a heavy projecting mullion and transom that forms a large cross. This is echoed by a small metal cross on the roof. The eaves framing this window have expressed purlins and decorative timber brackets.

The church has extremely high external intactness, retaining its original unpainted roughcast render and short-sheet corrugated iron roofing as well as the ridge ventilator.

The former Parish Hall, built in 1958, a simple gabled structure with roughcast rendered walls linking it visually to the church. It stands on the west side of the church. Originally, the only feature of the gable-fronted facade was a recessed porch reached by a short flight of steps with double timber ledged doors, with a simple flat hood sheltering the entrance. The side elevations had small double-hung sash windows, singly and in pairs. The roof is clad with corrugated metal, with a metal ridge vent.

The hall has been converted into a residence, involving a suite of external (and internal) alterations. This included the creation of a large opening for French doors and balcony in the front gable above the entrance, and enlargement of all but one of the windows on the east side elevation nearest the church. The roof was clad in new corrugated steel, but the metal ridgeline vent was retained (or renewed). A timber paling fence was erected between the hall and the church, interrupting the visual connection between them.

*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/>*