
Former St Matthew's Church Hall

Location

145-151 High Street PRAHRAN, Stonnington City

Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO54

Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Refer also St Matthew's Church, 157 High Street, Prahran (HO126)

The 1870s bluestone church and the former Sunday School Hall (1891, remodelled 1936) have state significance as an Anglican Church complex, an important community meeting place over many decades.

The former Sunday School is of high architectural significance as an unusual example of a Gothic ecclesiastical building, incorporating elements of architectural folly.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Stonnington - Conservation Review City of Prahran Volume 2: Individual Buildings (A1), Context Pty Ltd, 1993;
Other Names	145 - 151 High Street, Prahran,
Hermes Number	31633
Property Number	

Local Historical Themes

10.2 Worshiping

Physical Description 1

In 1891, a brick Sunday School was built for St. Matthews from the designs of the Melbourne architects, Laver and Fick, who were well-known as designers of ecclesiastical buildings.(1) The asymmetrical facade of this building remains intact at the upper: storey level With alterations at street level relating to shop conversions, including a cantilevered verandah. . Important architectural features in the facade include stone tracery in the arched windows of the projecting gables. Elements of architectural folly include decorative 'turrets', finials and terracotta ridge tiles, creating an unusual example of a Gothic ecclesiastical building. Later, in 1898, a two-storeyed brick parsonage was constructed, designed by the architects Sydney Smith and Ogg.(2) This is the present St Matthews parsonage at 48 The Avenue .

During the 1930s, Louis Williams (Diocesan Architect) was responsible for remodelling the St. Matthews Parish Hall (the former Sunday School); With the aim of providing four shops to the High Street frontage.(3) The row of double storey shops is separated from the church by a large modern building (occupied by the RACV), and clearly reflects its church associations in its architectural detailing.

(1) *BEMJ*, 28 Nov. 1891, p. 235. Perspective illustration.

(2) *BEMJ*, 7 June 1898 p. 4.

(3) *Herald*, 16 Dec, 1936. Contains illustrations and perspective views;.MMBWHouse COver No. 10039; Louis Williams collection of drawings etc. Picture Collection, SLY.

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/>