

ASSEMBLY HALL



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1 assembly hall collins street melb front view 1992



assembly hall collins street melbourne entrance detail feb1993



assembly hall collins street melbourne plaque detail feb1993



assembly hall collins street melbourne side view 1992



assembly hall collins street melbourne street view feb1993

Location

156-160 COLLINS STREET MELBOURNE, Melbourne City

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0418

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO580

VHR Registration

October 12, 1977

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 3, 1999

What is significant?

The Assembly Hall at 156-160 Collins Street Melbourne was designed by Henry H. Kemp for the Presbyterian Church, and built by Swanson Bros. in 1914-15 on the site of the old Scots Church manse. The four storey structure (the fourth storey was added c.1935) accommodates a hall with gallery, seating 900, offices and a bookshop. The street facade, return, and tower are faced in rock- faced sandstone with dressed stone mouldings.

How is it significant?

The Assembly Hall is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Assembly Hall is of architectural significance as a late example of Gothic Revival architecture. The careful attention paid by the architect to style, materials and massing has resulted in a building which harmonises with the neighbouring church and which is an integral part of the Collins Street streetscape. The Gothic theme continues inside the building, most interestingly in the foyer, stair and hall.

The Assembly Hall is of architectural significance as an example of HH Kemp's work. Kemp was noted for his arts-and-crafts-inspired Queen Anne or Federation style houses, so the Gothic style employed in the Assembly Hall is less common for him (although he was well trained in the style, as evidenced by this building and his 1887 Stage 2 of the Working Men's College). But it shows his determination to ensure the sympathetic integration of his building with the Scots Church nextdoor.

The Assembly Hall is of historical significance for its associations with the Presbyterian Church, its substantial character and prestigious address reflecting the fact that the Victorian branch was the largest, wealthiest and most influential branch of the Presbyterian Church in Australia.

Construction dates	1914,
Architect/Designer	Kemp, Henry H,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,

Hermes Number 723

Property Number

History

Contextual History:History of Place: The Assembly Hall was built on a site previously occupied by the old Scots Church manse. The Presbyterian church intended to begin construction in the early 1890s, but was thwarted by the onset of economic depression. The Hall was eventually built for a price of 33,159 pounds and opened in 1915. It was initially three storeys high and included Church offices and committee rooms and also writing rooms and caretaker's quarters. It is thought that the first meeting of the Liberal Party took place in the Hall.

Extent of Registration

No. 418. Assembly Hall, 156-160 Collins Street, Melbourne.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No.84 October 12, 1977 p.3178]

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/>