

CHRIST CHURCH



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2008



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h00635 christ church toorak

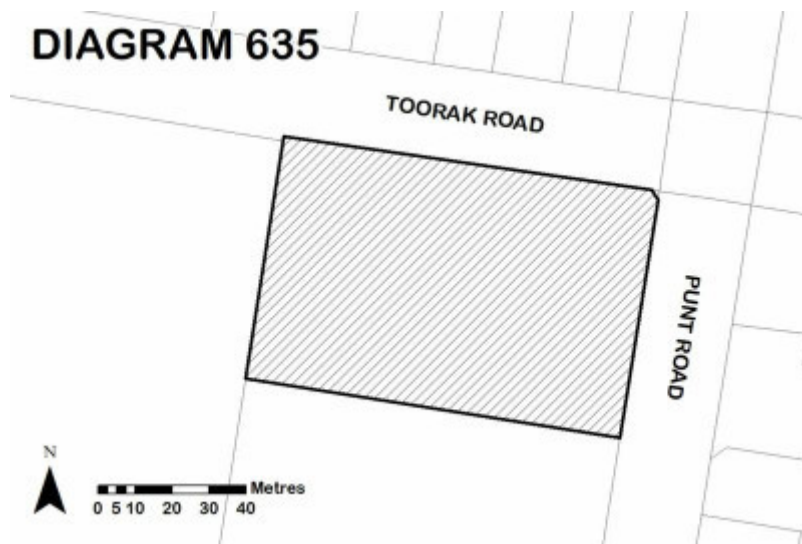


DIAGRAM 635

Location

683-701 PUNT ROAD SOUTH YARRA, MELBOURNE CITY

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0635

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO401

VHR Registration

July 30, 1986

Amendment to Registration

August 17, 2023

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 1, 2025

Christ Church is located on Bunurong Country.

What is significant?

Christ Church, a bluestone Gothic style church building designed by the architects Charles Webb and Thomas Taylor in 1856-57, with a sanctuary (1881), south aisle, tower and spire (1884-86) and north aisle (1889) designed by Reed, Henderson and Smart. Its interior includes chancel furnishings by Alexander North, stained glass by E R Suffling (c.1884) and William Montgomery (c.1903-07), and a pipe organ. The grounds of Christ Church include an interwar lychgate on Toorak Road, a c.1901 cabman's shelter relocated from Punt Road and portions of early boundary fences (c.1890s).

How is it significant?

Christ Church is of historic and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

Why is it significant?

Christ Church is historically significant for its ability to demonstrate Melbourne's exponential urban growth in the 1850s, as well as the importance and dominance of the Church of England in the early years of colonial Victoria. Through its impressive scale and landmark positioning at the corner of Toorak and Punt Roads, Christ Church illustrates the prominence of religion, particularly Christianity, in nineteenth-century Victoria.
(Criterion A)

Christ Church is architecturally significant as a fine example of a Gothic style church building, principally built in 1856-57 and expanded during the 1880s. It is a fine example of its class, including a spire and spirelets, pointed arch windows and has a distinctive lantern at the crossing of the roof trusses of the nave and transepts. Christ Church is also architecturally significant as an important ecclesiastical work by the architects Charles Webb and Thomas Taylor, and later Reed, Henderson and Smart. The church interior is substantially intact, featuring early stained glass windows by E R Suffling of London (c.1884) and William Montgomery of Melbourne (c.1903-07).
(Criterion D)

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Theme

8. Building community life

Construction dates	1856,
Architect/Designer	Webb & Taylor, Webb, Charles, Reed Henderson & Smart,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	ANGLICAN CHRIST CHURCH, CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTH YARRA,
Hermes Number	1080
Property Number	

History

Associated People: Assoc.People THOMAS MOUBRAY WILLIAM CAIN ANNETTE BEAR-CRAWFORD
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Assessment Against Criteria

Criterion

Christ Church is of historic and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 2017**, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying a place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H0635

Category: Registered Place

Name: Christ Church

Location: 683-701 Punt Road, South Yarra

Municipality: Melbourne City

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 635 encompassing all of Lot 1 on Lodged Plan 82470.

Dated 17 August 2023

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director

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/>