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# HILL PIPE ORGAN - ST PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



Hill pipe organ-St Peters  
Stawell\_KJ\_29 may 08



Hill pipe organ\_in situ\_KJ\_29  
may 08



Hill pipe organ\_KJ\_29 may  
08



St Peters Lutheran  
church\_Stawell\_KJ\_29 may  
08

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## Location

25 SCALLAN STREET STAWELL, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2177

## VHR Registration

October 9, 2008

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 28, 1997

What is significant?

This William Hill organ was made in London in 1858 by the prominent organbuilding firm of W Hill & Son for the residence of a Mr Davis in Melbourne. Between 1886 and 1892 it was installed in St Andrew's Anglican Church, Brighton, and remained there until 1923, when it was moved to Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Stratford. In 1969 it was purchased as a gift for St Peter's Lutheran church in Stawell by John Kriewaldt, a member of the congregation, and he also restored it at that time. The organbuilding firm of William Hill (later to become Hill & Son) represents the high point of nineteenth century English organbuilding. Most of the Hill organs in Australia date from 1870-1890 when the firm had developed the art of organbuilding along very distinctive lines. The Hill organ now at Stawell, being built in 1858, is an example of Hill workmanship built before these standardised lines of organbuilding developed in that firm.

The Hill pipe organ is a chamber organ with an attractive and notable solid mahogany Neo-classical case with egg and dart moulding. All of the original pipework is present, and it retains its original sound. The original mechanical key, stop and combination actions have been preserved. The combination action is very advanced in design for its time. All of the original wind supply is present, including the hand-blowing apparatus.

How is it significant?

The Hill pipe organ is significant for historical reasons to the state of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Hill pipe organ is historically significant as the earliest substantial chamber organ in Victoria to survive, as the oldest extant William Hill organ in Australia, and as an extremely rare, if not unique, example in the world of a Hill chamber organ of the period. Its significance is increased by the retention of its original mahogany case, pipework and mechanism.

### 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](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Routine maintenance: Pipe Organs require regular servicing particularly tuning and attendance to action problems. Such procedures usually take place monthly, quarterly, half yearly or annually. Such activities would not impact in any way on the heritage status of the instrument provided they are carried out by appropriate firms, and would not require a permit.

Construction dates	1858,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered object,
Other Names	PIPE ORGAN,
Hermes Number	1278
Property Number	

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## History

The church

The Congregational Church was opened on Sunday 13 September 1874, having been designed and supervised by the Rev J G Wilson. As a consequence of a dwindling congregation in the twentieth century, the Congregational Church closed. In August 1957 the church was acquired by the newly formed Lutheran Congregation at a cost of ?2250. An additional ?1029 was spent on renovations to the building and it was dedicated as St Peter's Lutheran Church on 28 September 1958, fifteen years after the first Lutheran services had been held in Stawell in a private house.

## The organ

This organ was originally built for a Mr Davis, Melbourne, in 1858, and is described as a 'new chamber organ'. According to Miles Lewis's *Melbourne Mansions Database* Peter Davis lived in Collins Street in 1854, and by 1856 P Davis had a house in Lennox Street, Richmond described as a large 'gentleman's residence' 'standing forth as a model'. In 1866 Davis had Reed & Barnes build Euro-Reko in St Kilda for him. Some time between 1886 and 1892 the organ was installed in St Andrew's Anglican Church, Brighton, where it remained until 1923. It was then installed in Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Stratford, and in 1969 it was purchased by John Kriewaldt, a member of the congregation of St Peter's Lutheran Church in Stawell, restored by him and placed in its present location. In 1995 the William Hill organ underwent further restoration.

The historic value of this organ is enhanced by the following characteristics:

The organ has an attractive and notable Neo-classical case (with egg and dart moulding) constructed from solid mahogany. All of the original pipework is present, and retains its original sound. The original mechanical key, stop and combination actions have been preserved. The combination action is very advanced in design for its time. All of the original wind supply is present, including the hand-blowing apparatus.

## The maker

The English organbuilding form of William Hill (later to become Hill & Son) represents the high point of nineteenth century English organbuilding. William Hill was born in Spilsby, Lincs., in 1789, where there is a memorial window to him in the church. In 1825 he was taken into partnership by Thomas Elliot. Upon the death of Elliot in 1832, Hill remained alone until 1837, when he was joined by Frederick Davison, who left the next year to become a partner of John Gray. The firm was then known as W Hill & Son, and from its workshops came many fine and notable organs. On the death of William Hill in 1871 his eldest son, Thomas, sustained and increased the reputation of the firm.

## References

John Stiller, 'Summary Report of Pipe Organs Documented in Victoria.', Organ Historical Trust of Australia, August 1978 - June 1980.

Detailed report on the organ by John Stiller, Research Officer of Organ Historical Trust of Australia, 'Detailed Documentation of Pipe Organ Built by William Hill 1858', May 1979, in Heritage Victoria File no 6000531.

## Assessment Against Criteria

### a. *The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object*

This Hill pipe organ is the earliest substantial chamber organ in Victoria to survive.

### b. *The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness*

This Hill pipe organ is the oldest extant William Hill organ in Australia, and is an extremely rare, if not unique, example in the world of a Hill chamber organ of the period. Its significance is increased by the retention of its original mahogany case, pipework and mechanism.

### c. *The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage*

### d. *The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects*

### e. *The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features*

### f. *The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements*

g. The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations

h. Any other matter which the Council deems relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance

## **Plaque Citation**

Made in London in 1858 by the prominent maker W Hill & Son for a private Melbourne residence, this is the oldest substantial chamber organ in Victoria and the oldest Hill organ in Australia.

## **Extent of Registration**

The object described as the Hill Pipe Organ, currently located in St Peter's Lutheran Church, 25 Scallan Street, Stawell.

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*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/>*