
ST ANDREW'S UNITING CHURCH

Location

Coleraine-Balmoral Road BALMORAL, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 2, 2003

What is Significant?

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is located on the northern side of the Coleraine-Balmoral Road, about one kilometre from the centre of the township of Balmoral. It was the first church to be built in Balmoral, reflecting the dominant Presbyterian faith of the early pastoralists and townspeople of the area. The Church was built in 1865, and the committee of Trustees comprised the most important and influential landholders and merchants in and around Balmoral. A simple stone and render church, St Andrew's is built in the Gothic revival style, of three bays with a vestry. The walls are built of local sandstone, deeply stained by iron, in coursed random rubble. The side windows are of interest being square-headed within Gothic arches. The church was designed by important local architect, John S. Jenkins, and built by Alex Mason and Archibald McQueen, of Hamilton. The church retains and excellent degree of integrity externally and high degree of integrity internally. It is in excellent condition.

How is it significant?

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is of historical, social and architectural significance to the township of Balmoral and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it Significant?

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is of historical significance as an example of the importance of Presbyterian faith in the township of Balmoral and surrounding areas from the late 1850s. It is of further historical importance as the first church and for its quality of construction, reflected in the committee and trustee members. The complex is of social significance to the township of Balmoral as the focus for Presbyterians, who settled in the township in the mid nineteenth century, mostly large landholders, general merchants and pastoralists. It is of architectural significance as an excellent example of early and primitive construction materials used in the Gothic revival style to express religious values. It is of further significance for the range of memorials, and as a comparison with the churches of other denominations in Balmoral.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23237
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The whole of the building is in excellent condition.

Physical Description 1

A simple stone and render church, St Andrew's is built in the Gothic revival style, of three bays with a vestry. The walls are built of local sandstone, deeply stained by iron, in coursed random rubble. The side windows are of interest being square-headed within Gothic arches. Buttresses divide the bays. The main roof of corrugated iron, painted red, is pitched at 60°, as is the vestry roof.

The vestry has a chimney and fireplace with a timber mantle, an unusual feature for most churches, and three small lancet windows, different from the side windows. It is said that a belfry on the front gable was removed, because the vibration from the bell caused cracking, and this was replaced by the present cement finial.

There is a timber porch or narthex within the body of the church with a door leading to either aisle. The WW1 memorial of carved timber, formerly located on the end wall of the nave has been relocated to the porch. The interior of the church is little altered with the pulpit, elders' chairs, pews and memorials all surviving. The ceiling features exposed scissor trusses with tongue-in-groove pine lining boards. The windows are glazed in diamond patterned panes, with a simple lozenge design in pale yellow glass. A triple lancet window in the east wall above the entrance door with diamond patterned panes contains modern, coloured glass motifs, including the Uniting Church symbol.

In the altar area, the font of carved and turned oak bears a brass plaque of appreciation to Mr J A Walter, Secretary and Treasurer of the Federal Board for 25 years. The altar table is made of carved oak, and is dedicated to John Philip of Englefield, who died 1916, and his son Lieut. Edgar Philip, killed in action, Flanders 1917. To the west of the altar are two items, a boxed pulpit and an old organ, the latter donated by William Officer of Mt Talbot. The wooden pews are finished with a grained pattern, many of them are numbered, and all bear a distinctive fleur-de-lis termination. An unsympathetic dado of imitation woodgrain panelling has been added, probably in the 1970s.

The church contains three commemorative plaques. The first is to Urquhart Douglas Haig Horne of Englefield, who died in 1943, a casualty of World War 2. The second plaque is to James Gordon Robertson of Kongbool, b. Mt Mitchell 10/8/1859, d Melbourne 1/9/1929. The third plaque is dedicated to James Henderson, Minister 1864-1907, b 1829, d 1922.

The interior of the vestry, entered by a Gothic ledged door, is not altered at all.

The hall on the west side of the church was built in the twentieth century, and has been linked to the church by a concrete block corridor. A bronze bell on a steel stand is located in the grounds near the entrance of the church. The bell was cast at the Clarke Browne foundry in Tasmania, and donated to the church by Sir Charles Officer of Mt Talbot Station.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
8.6 Worshipping
8.6.1 Worshipping together
8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions
8.6.4 Making places for worship

Usage/Former Usage

Church
Hall

Integrity

Excellent degree of integrity externally and high degree of integrity internally.

Physical Description 2

include the architect [if known], early ministers, names on memorials, etc.

Ministers of the Balmoral-Harrow Charge:

1860-64 Rev James Treadwell

1864-1907 Rev. James Henderson

1908-11 Rev. S D Hood

1912-23 Rev. J I King

1923-25 Rev. J B McKissock

1925-26 Rev. G L Johnson

1926-30 Rev. Finley Fraser

1930-65 Rev. J H Bates

1966-71 Rev. K C W Beckett

1972- Rev. L Wood

Physical Description 3

Presbyterian Church Reserve

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/>