

# FORMER BAPTIST CHURCH HOUSE



FORMER BAPTIST CHURCH HOUSE SOHE 2008



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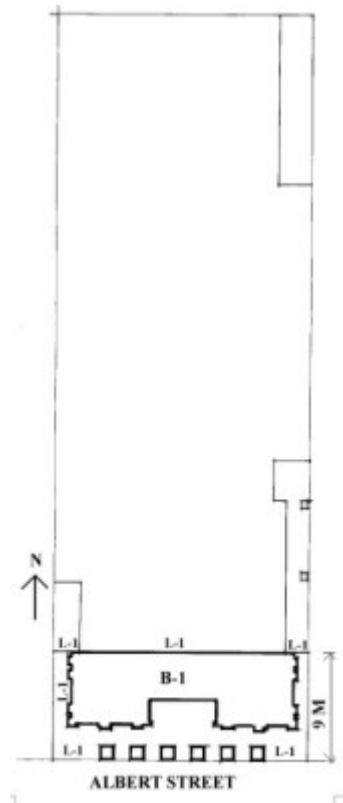
1 former baptist church house ext front



former baptist church house front elevation



former baptist church house ext roof



former baptist church registration plan

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## Location

486-492 ALBERT STREET EAST MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

## Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0003

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO123

## VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

## Amendment to Registration

August 20, 1998

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 7, 2023

### What is significant?

The first Baptist service in the colony was held in 1838 in a tent on the site where the Regent Theatre now stands. The land for the first chapel on this site was bought from the Crown in 1852, and in 1853 a building intended as a schoolroom and seating 250 people was constructed at a cost of 700 pounds. It was set back from the street to allow a church in front. The chapel was designed by the architect Thomas Watts and was constructed by Huckson and Co in 1858-59. The front portion of the chapel was added in 1863-5 in accordance with the original design. Two intended towers were never constructed. A major fire on 6 October 1983 resulted in the collapse of the roof and the gutting of the auditorium or nave. An office building was subsequently constructed behind the facade, and the facade substantially restored.

### How is it significant?

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The former Baptist Church House is of architectural and historic importance to the state of Victoria.

## Why is it significant?

While only the front portion of the building remains, it is of architectural importance as a classical facade with fine Corinthian portico, projecting dentillated cornice and entablature, and a substantial remnant of one of only a small number of classical style buildings constructed in the mid nineteenth century.

The former Baptist Church House is of historic importance as a representation of one of Victoria's oldest non-conformist churches. The Baptists support of the classical style reflected their desire to be seen as separate from the Gothic or medieval traditions of the mainstream churches.

## 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:

Nil

Construction dates	1855,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	352
Property Number	

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## History

Associated People: Thomas Watts;

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 3 in the category described as a Heritage Place, is now described as:

Former Baptist Church House, 486 Albert Street, East Melbourne, City of Melbourne.

#### EXTENT:

1. The remaining front section of the building marked B-1 on Diagram 603719A held by the Executive Director.
2. All of the land marked L-1 on Diagram 603719A held by the Executive Director being part of the land (to a depth of 9 metres from Albert Street frontage) described in Certificate of Title Volume 10027 Folio 408.

Dated 13 August 1998.

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 33 20 August 1998 p.2252]

*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/>*