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# ST JOHNS LUTHERAN CHURCH (FORMERLY ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)



ST JOHNS LUTHERAN CHURCH SOHE 2008



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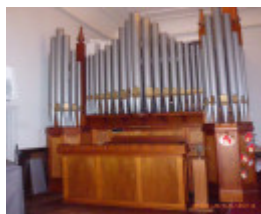
ST JOHNS LUTHERAN CHURCH SOHE 2008



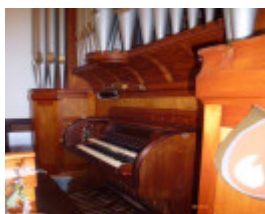
st johns lutheran church yarra street geelong front elevation publication



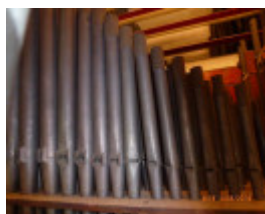
st johns lutheran church yarra street geelong interior seats mar1984



Before Photographs - Reference F3862 03/07/2014



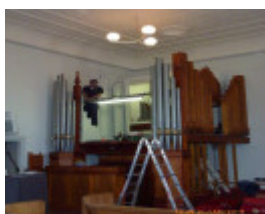
Before Photographs - Reference F3862 03/07/2014



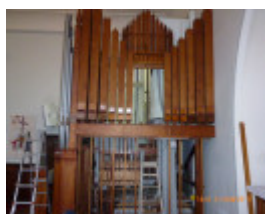
Before Photographs - Reference F3862 03/07/2014



Before Photographs - Reference F3862 03/07/2014



During Photographs - Reference F3862 21/01/2015



During Photographs - Reference F3862 21/01/2015

165 YARRA STREET GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

## **Municipality**

GREATER GEELONG CITY

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H0656

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO266

## **VHR Registration**

March 11, 1987

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - April 23, 1997

What is significant?

St John's Lutheran Church was designed by architect and surveyor Alexander Skene and erected in 1841-2 as St Andrews Presbyterian. In its original form the building was simple, Georgian in style and rectangular in plan, with a small entry porch at the Yarra Street end. Polished freestone sills were used at the doors and windows but the walls were constructed of locally manufactured bricks. Other materials, including some of the roofing shingles and plaster for the ceiling, were imported from Hobart. The original structure survives behind a two storey, rendered, classical style front which was added in 1912-13 to the design of notable Geelong architects Laird and Buchan. The pipe organ now in St John's Lutheran Church, Geelong was built by Alfred Fuller and first installed in the Wesleyan Church, North Melbourne. When this church was demolished in 1936 the organ was sold to Holy Trinity Church of England, Kensington where it remained until 1972 when it was removed to St Johns.

How is it significant?

St John's Lutheran Church, Geelong, including the pipe organ, is of historic, architectural and scientific (technical) importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

St John's Lutheran Church (formerly St Andrews Presbyterian Church) is historically important as the first Presbyterian Church in Geelong, the oldest surviving Presbyterian Church in the state, and the oldest surviving masonry structure in the Geelong region. The church is also important for its association with a number of Geelong pioneers including Dr Alexander Thompson (1800-1866), medical practitioner, pastoralist and Geelong's first Mayor. Thompson, who is sometimes described as Geelong's founder was treasurer of the church during its construction and laid the foundation stone of St Andrew's in 1841. He.

St John's Lutheran Church, Geelong, is architecturally important as the earliest documented work of Alexander Skene, the first architect/surveyor to practice in Geelong and who later became Victoria's Surveyor-General from 1869-86.

The pipe organ is important as the largest organ built by Alfred Fuller surviving in substantially original condition. It demonstrates the large spectrum of organ building techniques as practised by Fuller. The magnificent tonal qualities of this instrument overcome any acoustic deficiencies of the building and the harmonic development of this instrument rivals the best work of Hill and Son and other organ builders of the time. Constructionally, the organ is a worthy example of nineteenth century organ building and is tonally the best preserved of the larger Fuller organs.

It is also important for its association from 1912 with a local society popular among Geelong Scots between the two wars. The Comunn na Feinne Society, formed in 1856 and was dedicated to the "Cultivation of the Gaelic Language and Highland Nationality; Morality; Archaeology and Whatever may Interest or Instruct".

## 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](#).

Construction dates	1841,
Architect/Designer	Skene, AJ,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
Hermes Number	543
Property Number	

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## History

Associated People:

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 656, St Johns Lutheran Church, Formerly St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 165 Yarra Street, Geelong (to the extent of the whole of the church building and the land described in Vol. 6857 Folio 249 and Vol. 6980 Folio 954 but excluding the brick manse and all outbuildings).

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G10 11 March 1987 p. 558]

*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/>*