

Victorian Heritage Database place details - 14/12/2019

FORMER BAPTIST CHURCH



Location:

3 ABERDEEN STREET NEWTOWN, Greater Geelong City

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number: H0426

Listing Authority: VHR

Extent of Registration:

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act 1995, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying the following places in the Heritage Register:

Number: H0426

Category: Heritage Place

Place: Former Baptist Church

3 Aberdeen Street

Newtown

Greater Geelong City

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 426 encompassing all of Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 638011.

Dated 7 October 2015

TIM SMITH

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G40 8 October 2015 pp.2141-2142]

Statement of Significance:

The former Baptist Church was erected in Aberdeen Street, Newtown in 1853-4, to designs by Geelong architect, John Young. It was built on donated land only sixteen years after the establishment of the Baptist Church in Victoria, and only eight years after the first Baptist church opened in Collins Street. It continued to be used as a church until 1876 when a larger church was constructed in Aberdeen Street, and the earlier building became the Sunday School.

The Italianate style church is built of random coursed Barrabool Hills sandstone, with fine axed mouldings, quoins and reveals. It is a simple rectangular gabled building with wide eaves supported on rows of consoles. Acroteria originally decorated the gable end of the front façade. A central, arch-headed entrance is flanked by arch-headed window openings, which also line the nave. Simple mouldings and quoining are employed to emphasise the openings and corners of the building.

An addition was made to the rear of the building in 1972, replacing an earlier addition containing a vestry and meeting room. Internally the roof truss structure and lined ceiling are largely intact, however the original gallery has been removed.

The former Baptist Church, Newtown is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

The former Baptist Church, Newtown is of historical significance due to its association with the earliest foundations of the Baptist Church in Victoria, as it was erected only sixteen years after the establishment of the church in Melbourne. It is one of the six earliest Baptist churches in the colony and would appear to be the oldest country Baptist church remaining in Victoria.

Its significance is enhanced by being part of a complex of buildings which have been in continual use by the Baptist church. These include this building, the adjacent manse (1891) and the present church (1876).

The former Baptist Church is of architectural significance as an important work of the Geelong architect, John Young, as derived from 1840s pattern books. He designed other churches in the region and the Jewish Synagogue in Geelong. It is notable for its simple architectural composition and the quality of masonry craftsmanship.

[Online Data Upgrade Project 2004]

Heritage Study	
Year Construction Started	1853
Architect / Designer	Long, John
Architectural Style	Victorian Period (1851-1901) Romanesque
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place
Municipality	["GREATER GEELONG CITY"]
Other names	ABERDEEN ST FORMER BAPTIST CHURCH, CHURCH CENTRE
History	