

Victorian Heritage Database Report  
**Ross Gallery**

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**Location:**

2 Wallaby Avenue, Sassafras VIC 3787 - Property No 59127

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Included in Heritage Overlay

**Heritage Inventory (HI) Number:**

**Listing Authority:** HI

**Heritage Overlay Number:** HO293

**Statement of Significance:**

The former Sassafras Methodist Church (1902) has high local significance as a surviving example of the many little churches built in the Dandenongs early this century. Like many of these timber buildings, it was moved to another site to accommodate changing community needs. The former church has associations with the development of Sassafras township. It also has associations with a number of early district farming families, a local school teacher and a district guesthouse

owner. Its Sunday School was moved over the road to become the Sassafras Hall, which with the former church (now Ross Gallery), forms part of the Sassafras township.

## Description

The former Sassafras Methodist Church is situated on the crest of the hill to the south end of the Sassafras commercial centre, overlooking the small shopping strip. The surrounding land has been terraced to accommodate a carpark to the north and a formal garden to the rear. The building has been extended from the east facade and the complex is currently used as a function centre.

The former Church is a rectangular plan timber building with a steep gabled roof and minimal ornamentation. Access to the Church is via an enclosed porch extending from the east facade which replicates the form and detail of the Church. The roofs to each section have a small overhang and are edged with scalloped timber bargeboards. The north and south elevations are delineated by two pointed arch windows with simple timber surrounds.

The interior of the former Church has been retained, but is substantially altered. While the timber beams, pews and timber panelling remain, the removal of the west wall has altered the interior, incorporating it within the larger dining space of the rear extension.

The extensions to the former Church imitate the form of the building with gable roof and weatherboard cladding.

Good

## Major Alterations

Heritage Study / Consultant	Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000
Construction Date Range	
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	YARRA RANGES SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	115752
Property number	59127

*This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online*