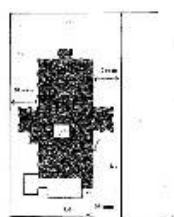


Victorian Heritage Database Report

ST MARYS HALL



Location:

162-190 MYERS STREET GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number: H1109

Listing Authority: VHR

Heritage Overlay Number: HO1084

Statement of Significance:

St Mary's Hall, Geelong, a large red brick building with cement dressings, was constructed in 1891-92 by contractors House and Sims to a design by architects Watts and Durran. Funded by subscriptions and opened debt-free, it was used as classrooms for St Mary's School until 1918.

St Mary's Hall is of architectural and historical significance to Victoria.

St Mary's Hall is an extraordinary example of architectural style for the Catholic Church which favoured the Gothic style at that time. The first and classically styled churches built in Victoria for the Catholic Church were Sacred Heart Church, St Kilda in 1884 and Sacred Heart Church, Carlton in 1897

As such St Mary's Hall is an early example of the classical revival style in Catholic architecture and anticipates the move from Gothic style to the red brick Renaissance and Baroque designs of the twentieth century.

The hall has considerable historical associations with the Catholic Church in Victoria. Constructed as a meeting place for Catholics after they were denied access to other halls due to the hostility engendered by the Irish Home Rule question, the building demonstrates its strong links with Irish Catholicism. The imposing scale of the hall expresses the importance placed in the building as a symbol of the faith and identity of the Catholic community.

[Source: Report to the Minister]

Heritage Study / Consultant	
Construction Date Range	1891 - 1919
Architect / Designer	Watts & Durran
Municipality	GREATER GEELONG CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	4818
Property number	

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