

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

name: St Andrews Uniting Church
Address: 10 Pynsent Street HORSHAM
Place Type: Church
Citation Date: 2022



St Andrews Uniting Church, 10 Pynsent Street Horsham

**Recommended
Heritage Protection** **VHR -**

 HI -

 PS
 Yes

Integrity

1962 church of very high integrity exterior and interior – 1995 additions compromise this integrity from views looking west, from east side of church in Pynsent St.

History and Historical Context

The first Presbyterian service in Horsham constituted a sermon preached in the local court house; this took place in 1855, only a few years after the town was surveyed. Services continued in the borrowed space of the court house for several more years. A relatively large proportion of the early settlers, both squatters and their servants alike, were Scots Presbyterian and establishing a place of worship was of critical importance to this first wave of settlers. The links of the early church group to the pastoral settlers probably helped with having the necessary funds for erecting a church.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

A site had been purchased for 'Scots Presbyterian Church purposes' in 1858 at the corner of Pynsent Street and Urquhart Street, Horsham, and in 1860 a small brick church was erected here at a cost of £700. Trustees for the site were appointed in 1859, namely John Wilson, Charles Wilson, Horatio C. Ellerman, John Rutherford and Alexander Wallace. The church at Horsham was designated St Andrew's and was part of the broader Wimmera Presbytery, which first met in Horsham in 1863. In 1874, however, the building was demolished because it was condemned.[1]

A new church building, in simple rectangular form, was erected in 1875, using stone from Mackenzies Creek. It loosely followed the Gothic style (i.e. with pointed windows). St Andrew's Presbyterian Church also ran a Sunday School for children from at least the 1880s, using other available buildings in the town, but in 1909 it erected its own Sunday School building. The good attendance at weekly church services is evident in concern in the 1880s that those travelling to the church from some distance needed space in the church reserve to park their vehicles.[2] The church marked its anniversary each year with a special service.

A growing congregation necessitated some improvements to the existing building. In 1906 the church was significantly added to with an 'addition of twenty feet in length, with a half octagon end, [designed to] greatly improve the symmetry of the building, and provide forty additional seats.' The plans were drawn up by architect G. Jowett and building work carried out by W.F. Allan.[3] In 1928 further changes were made to the building, with the addition of a castellated bell tower above a side entry porch, in keeping with the English Gothic style.

The church celebrated its centenary in 1958, but suffered structural damage and was in need of significant restoration, as well as further enlargement. The committee of management decided to demolish the existing church to make way for a new building.

St Andrew's Church was completely rebuilt in 1962-63 to a design by renowned Melbourne architect Keith Reid, who undertook over fifty church commissions across Victoria through the middle decades of the twentieth century. Apart from the re-use of the stone from the original church, the new St Andrew's Church at Horsham was a striking and bravely unconventional form, reflecting the changing world in which it was conceived. Reid presented three design schemes to the church committee – conventional, modern, ultra-modern. The committee chose the ultra-modern scheme and the church was erected by local contractor, Laird Brothers[4]. The angular form of the church roof 'suggests a hand raised in benediction over the people with God in the midst'[5].

Reid's distinctive post-war 'modernist' ecclesiastical architecture was a departure from his interwar period churches, which tended to follow the English Revival style popular in domestic architecture. In an interview in 1993, Reid noted that he was 'most proud' of the design for St Andrews Church.[6] The Church opened 9 November, 1963. Leaded, stained glass windows from the earlier church were re-installed in the new structure. New liturgical furniture was commissioned for the building and was carved in an abstract manner by a Mr H Zwart and Son.[7] The pipe organ was initially installed in 1891, in the now demolished church. It was modified and relocated to the gallery of the new church in 1962.

In 1976, St Andrew's elected to disband from the Presbyterian Church and join the new Uniting Church of Australia. At Horsham this resulted in the amalgamation of the formerly separate Methodist and Presbyterian congregations. In 1988, a new church hall and other meeting rooms for the congregation were considered. The Wesley Methodist Church in Roberts Avenue and several other church properties were sold in 1990 and construction of the 'Wesley Centre' adjacent St Andrews Church commenced in 1994. The Centre was designed by architect Keith Walter (of Kew) to complement the architecture of the church – in plan and form. The Centre was opened in 1995 and incorporated stained glass windows relocated from the former Wesley Methodist Church and Vectis East Methodist Church.

St Andrew's continues to function today as a Uniting Church. The Church celebrated its 50th birthday in the current building in November, 2013.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [1] Brooke and Finch, 1982, p. 252
- [2] Horsham Times, 2 February 1883
- [3] Horsham Times, 15 May 1906
- [4] Hobbs, 2013 p25
- [5] Hobbs 2013 p31
- [6] Video interview with Keith Reid, 1993 (Art Deco Society)
- [7] Hobbs p35

Description

Physical Description

Erected 1962, replacing an earlier church on the site. Designed by architect Keith Reid, church is a notable example of 'Post-War Ecclesiastical' architecture in style. Features of note include: informal, organic plan form for aisle and side chapel (reflected changing liturgical arrangements/ formalities) feature walls of face stone (from earlier church) emphasising the modernist use of traditional materials as skins, rather than structure, substantial plate glass, passive design elements such as permanent louvers over windows, use of small lancet style windows of coloured glass to express traditional ecclesiastical styling in a contemporary manner (and in the manner of noted European modernist architect Le Corbusier), use of timber detailing inside in a decorative, but functional manner, modern pew seats, integration of interior with outside garden areas featuring stone ponds and garden walling. Of particular interest is the successful architectural expression of the ecclesiastical scale of the interior – verticality is expressed through use of narrow wall openings, glazing and raked roof – allowing a surprising amount of natural light inside. A ceiling clerestory element over the altar further accentuates the verticality and spirituality of the space.

External stone walls, ponds and garden screen walls add to the integration of internal and external space.

Physical Condition

Very good physical condition. 1995 additions to the side of the church compromise the setting of the place from the east and reduce the appreciation of the entrance (one side) but the architectural qualities of the 1962 church are still evident and able to be clearly interpreted.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

Relevant HERCON Criteria

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of our cultural or natural history. (represents the number and significant impact of Free Scots Presbyterian (now Uniting) settlers in Horsham in the early years of settlement. A church was established on the site in 1860 – only some 10 yrs after surveying the town. The founding congregation included the key early pastoralists – C and J Wilson and many others of Scottish origin. Church buildings on the site have been replaced over time, but the church remains in operation to today)

“*Criterion F:* Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

period. (intact and well-resolved design example of 'post-war ecclesiastical' architecture of the region and considered by architect as one of his best works of the typology)

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions. (primary location in Horsham for Uniting Church worship and fellowship – building erected by local Presbyterian community in 1963, still used today as the primary, central Uniting Church in the Shire)

Comparative Analysis

Architect Keith Reid designed over 50 churches for Melbourne and regional church groups in the immediate post war period. St Andrew's was acknowledged by Reid as 'one of his best' in an interview in 1993. One other 'post war ecclesiastical' style church is located in Horsham Rural City – St Paul's Lutheran Church, Natimuk – erected early 1960s – designer unknown. Across Victoria, several similar style churches are still extant. St Andrew's is a high integrity example of this architectural style for the post WW11 period in Victoria.

St Paul's Lutheran Church, 92 Main St, Natimuk, Hermes no. 191713: Erected early 1960s – 'post-war ecclesiastical' in style with expressed portal frame form. Less successful representation of the traditional church typology (form, light, expression of worship) than St Andrew's.

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 34 Fowler Street Moe, Hermes no. 119879 (Recommended for VHR 2014): Designed by Reid during St Andrews period – very similar in design detail, but more modest scale church. Roof form less expressive of religious function than St Andrew's Horsham church.

Burwood Heights Uniting Church, 4347 Blackburn Rd, Burwood, Hermes no. 46076, HO106: A frame style church of merit of period – designer/ date unknown – comparable but simple in form.

Baptist Church, Balwyn Road, Canterbury, Hermes no. 329: Light red brick simple portal frame gable roof church (barn form) with feature spire (1962) – architect not confirmed – similar in style to St Andrew's but form not as expressive of function – no expression of worship in roof form.

Presbyterian Church, 104 Atkinson Street, Templestowe, Hermes no. 22566: Face brick tall 'box' form with open glazed ends (1963) rational, rectilinear form rather than expressive of religious function.

All Saints' Church, 11 May St, Footscray North: (1964) Hexagon plan form, multi-gable roof, central spire, face brick with 'griffin' style triangular glazing bars – similar architectural merit to St Andrew's, roof restrained in form though.

Former Wesleyan Church, 97 Cunninghame Street, Sale, Hermes no. 128997: (1966) Very similar to St Andrew's in architectural style – face red brick, diamond plan form, with feature 'soaring' roof form and triangular windows – less 'free form' than Horsham though and surrounded by a flat roofed set of rooms, reducing understanding of main church form from the street.

Methodist Church, Beek Street, Katamatite, (east of Echuca), Hermes no. 147785: Muir & Shepherd (1961). Two unique triangular form shells form church, in-filled with glazing and face brickwork – very expressive of ecclesiastical function in form. High integrity, comparable in style to St Andrew's, but small scale example of church styles of the period.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The elements of heritage value of the 1963 St Andrew's Presbyterian (now Uniting) Church, 10 Pynsent Street, Horsham, include:

- . External form of the 1963 church building, including face stonework, feature windows, steel framed roof form, cross to front, leaded and coloured glass windows, including those salvaged from the previous building, coloured glass pocket windows, external reinforced concrete staircases
- . Face stone garden walls, water ponds
- . Low face stone perimeter fence to Urquhart and Pynsent Street boundaries.
- . Internal gallery and stair, face brick and stone walling, timber plank ceiling lining, organ pipe assembly, loose and fixed timber liturgical furniture dating from 1963, arrangement of fixed pew seating, window hardware and 1963 light fittings.

Later 1995 additions to the church are excluded.

How is it significant?

The 1963 St Andrew's Uniting Church, Horsham, is of historical, social and aesthetic significance to Horsham Rural City And potentially of aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The 1963 St Andrew's Uniting Church, Horsham, is:

- . Of local historical significance as a site only, representing the large number and significant impact of Free Scots Presbyterian settlers in Horsham in the early years of settlement. A church was established on the site in 1860 and has been rebuilt several times over the last 150 years. Scottish settlers of significance included pastoralists, early Road Board members and key citizens of note. (Criterion A)
- . Of local and state-wide aesthetic significance, representing a well resolved architectural example of modern movement 'Post-War Ecclesiastical Style' architecture. The Church is acknowledged by its architect, Keith Reid, as one of his best post war ecclesiastical works and is one of over 50 churches designed by Reid in the post-war period in Victoria. The Church is of further significance as a highly resolved architectural example of a class of contemporary styled churches erected across the State during this period, in response to the burgeoning population growth post WW11. The Church reflected historic types – scale, light, congregation and liturgy – but was also designed to freely express its liberation from structure, changing liturgical function and contemporary use of materials in an innovative, creative modern idiom of design merit. (Criterion F)
- . Of local social significance, as a place that has served the spiritual needs of locals since 1860, when the first Scots Presbyterian Church was built on this site, it remains the centre of the Horsham Uniting Church community. (Criterion G)

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Recommendations 2022

External Paint Controls	Yes
Internal Alteration Controls	Yes
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

References

Literature title: A story of Horsham : a municipal century

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Brooke, Brian. & Finch, Alan

Literature publisher: City of Horsham

Literature year: 1982

Literature title: St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church 1858-1958

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Coulson, Helen

Literature publisher: Parish of Horsham : centenary celebrations

Literature year: 1958

Literature title: Historical Record of the Horsham Presbyterian Church: published in connection with seventieth anniversary, April 1928

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year: 1928

Literature title: Horsham in focus: 1849-1999

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Foley, Marie. & Jenkinson, Noelene M. & Horsham Historical Society

Literature publisher: Horsham Historical Society Horsham, Vic

Literature year: 1999

Literature title: Foundations to Build On - Celebrating the 50th Birthday of the St Andrews Uniting Church Building, Horsham 1963-2013

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Hobbs, Susan

Literature publisher: Wimmera Design and Print

Literature year: 2013

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Literature title: Article: 2 February 1883

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Horsham Times

Literature publisher:

Literature year: 1883

Literature title: Article: 15 May 1906

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Horsham Times

Literature publisher:

Literature year: 1906

Literature title: Horsham Parish Plan

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year:

Literature title: Horsham Arts and Heritage Trail, n.d.

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year:

Literature title: Keith Reid

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year:

Literature title: Presbytery of Wimmera: History to 1968

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Rev. Morey

Literature publisher:

Literature year: 1968

Literature title: St. Andrew's Parish of Horsham, 1955 : new life through sacrifice

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year: 1955

Literature title: Victorian Government Gazette, 11 February 1859

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year: 1859

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.