

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** ST ANDREW'S UNITING CHURCH

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Coleraine-Balmoral Road BALMORAL

**STUDY NUMBER:** 159

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Balmoral

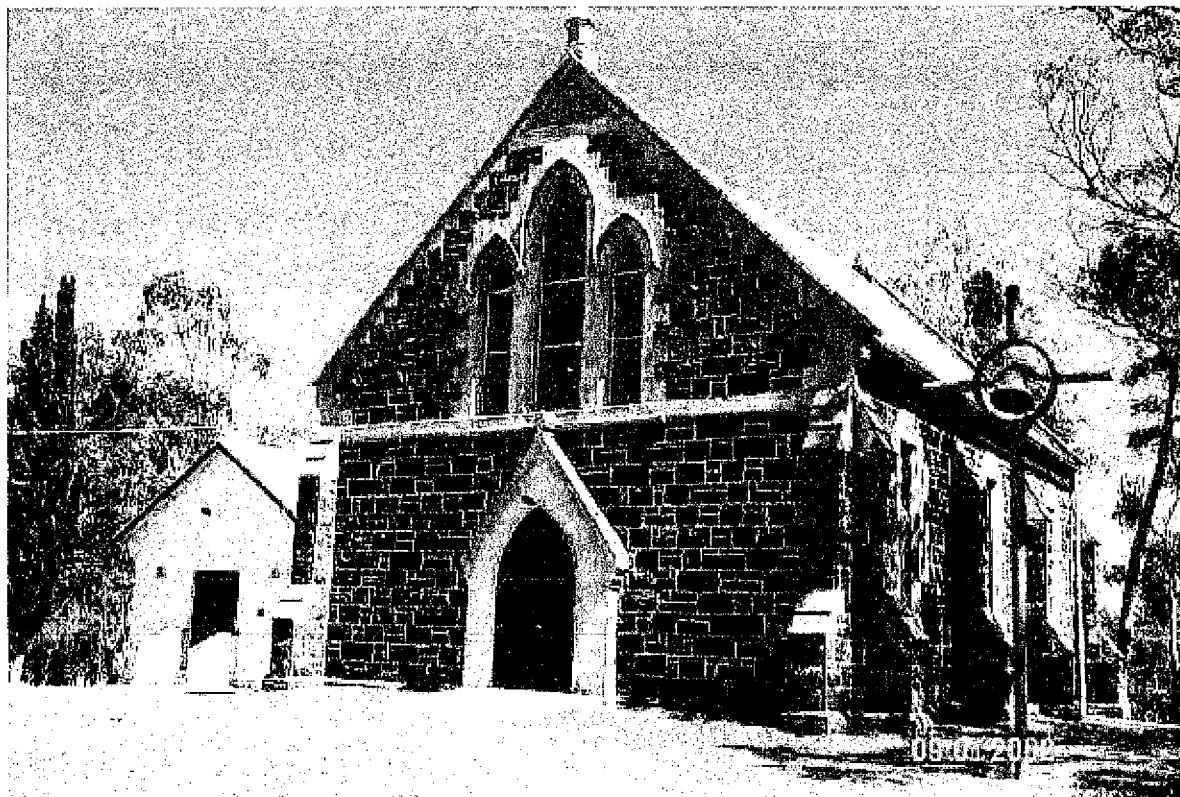
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 1      **SECTION:** 10

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 388J; Vicroads 227T3; located on the northern side of the Coleraine-Balmoral Road, about one kilometre from the centre of the township of Balmoral.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



St Andrews Presbyterian Church and Hall, Coleraine - Balmoral Road, Balmoral. Front elevation

**Image Date:** 09/01/2002

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the church and all the land, but excluding the hall.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

A simple stone and render church, St Andrew's is built in the Gothic revival style, of three bays with a vestry. The walls are built of local sandstone, deeply stained by iron, in coursed random rubble. The side windows are of interest being square-headed within Gothic arches. Buttresses divide the bays. The main roof of corrugated iron, painted red, is pitched at 60°, as is the vestry roof.

The vestry has a chimney and fireplace with a timber mantle, an unusual feature for most churches, and three small lancet windows, different from the side windows. It is said that a belfry on the front gable was removed, because the vibration from the bell caused cracking, and this was replaced by the present cement finial.

There is a timber porch or narthex within the body of the church with a door leading to either aisle. The WW1 memorial of carved timber, formerly located on the end wall of the nave has been relocated to the porch. The interior of the church is little altered with the pulpit, elders' chairs, pews and memorials all surviving. The ceiling features exposed scissor trusses with tongue-in-groove pine lining boards. The windows are glazed in diamond patterned panes, with a simple lozenge design in pale yellow glass. A triple lancet window in the east wall above the entrance door with diamond patterned panes contains modern, coloured glass motifs, including the Uniting Church symbol.

In the altar area, the font of carved and turned oak bears a brass plaque of appreciation to Mr J A Walter, Secretary and Treasurer of the Federal Board for 25 years. The altar table is made of carved oak, and is dedicated to John Philip of Englefield, who died 1916, and his son Lieut. Edgar Philip, killed in action, Flanders 1917. To the west of the altar are two items, a boxed pulpit and an old organ, the latter donated by William Officer of Mt Talbot. The wooden pews are finished with a grained pattern, many of them are numbered, and all bear a distinctive fleur-de-lis termination. An unsympathetic dado of imitation woodgrain panelling has been added, probably in the 1970s.

The church contains three commemorative plaques. The first is to Urquhart Douglas Haig Home of Englefield, who died in 1943, a casualty of World War 2. The second plaque is to James Gordon Robertson of Kongbool, b. Mt Mitchell 10/8/1859, d Melbourne 1/9/1929. The third plaque is dedicated to James Henderson, Minister 1864-1907, b 1829, d 1922.

The interior of the vestry, entered by a Gothic ledged door, is not altered at all.

The hall on the west side of the church was built in the twentieth century, and has been linked to the church by a concrete block corridor. A bronze bell on a steel stand is located in the grounds near the entrance of the church. The bell was cast at the Clarke Browne foundry in Tasmania, and donated to the church by Sir Charles Officer of Mt Talbot Station.

## **HISTORY:**

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church was proposed in 1864. Robert Officer of Mount Talbot run commissioned the Hamilton architect, John Jenkins to prepare a design, which was to cost 700 pounds, and be completed by March 1865 (HCC File Note). Lyell Harris (n.d), writes, "It was designed complete with vestry, porch and belfry and three Gothic windows, the architect estimating the cost at 700 pounds. The lowest tender, however, was 1,052 pounds and another architect was invited to prepare plans with a limit of 600 pounds. He did away with the vestry, porch, belfry and windows. The church was built to these much reduced specifications but at a cost of 995 pounds, within 60 pounds of the tender for the original plan."

The Trustees for the church were Robert Officer Junior, Charles Henry Armitage, Charles Myles Officer, Duncan Robertson, Alexander C. Cameroon, William Thomas Molloy. The committee members included the most prominent landholders surrounding Balmoral:- Robert Officer Junior, a Justice of the Peace, and owner of

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the Rocklands Run, Charles Henry Armitage of Fulham Station, Charles Myles Officer, of Mount Talbot Station, Duncan Robertson of Englefield, James McColl of Yat Nat, William Murdoch Ronald, of Congbool; Donald Swan, of Spring Vale, James Cuzens, a storekeeper and Basil Lyons storekeeper.

The foundation stone was laid by Reverend James Treadwell, the first Presbyterian minister in the district. The Balmoral and Harrow joint Charge was formed in May 1860. Rev. Treadwell remained as minister until 1864, when he was succeeded by Rev. James Henderson, who remained at the post until his retirement in 1907 (Sutherland, 63).

The Church of England community in early Balmoral used the Presbyterian Church for services until St Mary's was constructed in 1894.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

8.6.4 Making places for worship

## **CONDITION:**

The whole of the building is in excellent condition.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Excellent degree of integrity externally and high degree of integrity internally.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is Significant?

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is located on the northern side of the Coleraine-Balmoral Road, about one kilometre from the centre of the township of Balmoral. It was the first church to be built in Balmoral, reflecting the dominant Presbyterian faith of the early pastoralists and townspeople of the area. The Church was built in 1865, and the committee of Trustees comprised the most important and influential landholders and merchants in and around Balmoral. A simple stone and render church, St Andrew's is built in the Gothic revival style, of three bays with a vestry. The walls are built of local sandstone, deeply stained by iron, in coursed random rubble. The side windows are of interest being square-headed within Gothic arches. The church was designed by important local architect, John S. Jenkins, and built by Alex Mason and Archibald McQueen, of Hamilton. The church retains and excellent degree of integrity externally and high degree of integrity internally. It is in excellent condition.

How is it significant?

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is of historical, social and architectural significance to the township of Balmoral and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it Significant?

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is of historical significance as an example of the importance of Presbyterian faith in the township of Balmoral and surrounding areas from the late 1850s. It is of further historical importance as the first church and for its quality of construction, reflected in the committee and trustee members. The complex is of social significance to the township of Balmoral as the focus for Presbyterians, who settled in the township in the mid nineteenth century, mostly large landholders, general merchants and pastoralists. It is of architectural significance as an excellent example of early and primitive construction materials used in the Gothic revival style to express religious values. It is of further significance for the range of memorials, and as a comparison with the churches of other denominations in Balmoral.

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## COMPARISON:

157 St Mary's Anglican Church, corner of Stirling and Bell Streets, Balmoral  
158 St Patrick's Catholic Church, Coleraine Road, Balmoral  
098 St Andrew's Uniting Church, Martin Street, Penshurst  
020 St Andrew's Uniting Church, Winter Street, Coleraine

**ASSESSED BY:** AEN & TFH

**ASSESSMENT DATE:** 02-Dec-03

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Douglas Pike ed.,	'Officer, Sir Robert (1800-1879)' Australian Dictionary of Biography Vol 2	1967	297-8
Lyal Harris with the Balmoral Historical Society	Welcome Back to Balmoral	1975	24-5
Miles Lewis ed.,	Victorian Churches, Their origins, their story and their architecture	1991	var.