

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MALLENGEEBA SCOUT HALL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: MacGregors Road WANNON

STUDY NUMBER: 360

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: CHRIST CHURCH WANNON

PRECINCT: Wannon

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 23

PARISH: PARISH OF REDRUTH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 431J13; VicRoads 72 F4; located on the south-east side of MacGregor's Road mostly on the west bank of the Wannon River in the centre of the township of Wannon.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Mallengeeba Scout Hall, (Former Christ Church), Wannon.

Image Date: 5/01/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the exterior of the building all of the land within a radius of 10m of any edge of the hall.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The former Christ Church at Wannon is a timber building designed in a simple Gothic Revival style. The timber framed structure, made from locally milled red gum, is clad with red gum weatherboards between piers and stained ox-blood red. The steeply pitched roof is covered with proprietary asbestos cement shingles, also stained red and laid in a diaper pattern. These were available only in the early twentieth century and are rarely found in the region. The windows are single lancets with plain diapered leadlight glazing part of which projects internally to provide ventilation. At the southern end of the nave there is a pair of smaller lancet windows. An entrance at the south-east corner has swinging doors with remnants of green baize lining. The other entrance is on the west elevation. The internal walls appear not to have been lined, since there are no nail holes on the studs. Lining boards survive above the rafters and purlins and below the shingles. There is board-and-batten cladding surviving at the northern end as a reminder of the former position of the altar which was removed to Holy Trinity Church, Coleraine along with many other fittings. The building survives with a compromised integrity but is structurally sound.

Also on the site there is a modern concrete block ablution building and prefabricated structures.

HISTORY:

B J Pepper's history of Holy Trinity Anglican Church at Coleraine contains the following information about the history of Christ Church, Wannon (Pepper, 41-42). "The earliest records available show that services were held in Redruth in 1877, probably in the school. A government grant of five acres was set aside for the building of a church. Services continued in the school on a regular basis until 1911 when Christ Church was built. The first service was held in the new church on 26th March 1911, and it was dedicated by Bishop Green on 16th June 1911."

"The red gum timber used in the construction came from 'Brung Brungle' estate owned by the Ramsdens and the sheoak wood came from 'Melville Forest'. All of the church and everything in it was given by people throughout the parish so that it was always referred to as the "Gift Church". The name of an architect, if any was involved, is not known nor the name of a contractor, although the church may have been built by voluntary labour.

Notable members of the community donated items, including the Winter Cookes of Murndal, the Mercers of Springwood and the Ramsdens of Brung Brungle. According to Pepper "there were ten diamond leadlight windows, some were given by St Peter's Tahara when their stained glass ones were put in, and the rest were purchased and given to match by Mr. S. Winter Cooke....The Mercers also provided the pews for the church."

"Services ceased at the Wannon during 1965 due to lack of numbers.... A special meeting was held on 25th July 1966 to discuss the future of the church. It was attended by only five parishioners. It was decided to allow the District Scout group to use the church and land as a Scout camp which they called 'Mallengeeba'. The furnishings were removed and taken in to Holy Trinity [Coleraine]. Finally in 1983 permission was given by the Diocese to sell the church and land to the Scouts and the sale was effected by the 16th April 1984 for \$10,330."

The Scout Association acquired the building in 1984. It has operated as a hall for scouts and guides since then.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 8 Developing Australia's Cultural Life

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8.5 Forming Associations

8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.2 Maintaining religious traditions and ceremonies

8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

8.6.4 Making places for worship

CONDITION:

Good condition although now stripped of much of its religious detailing internally.

INTEGRITY:

Good

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Mallengeeba Scout Hall, formerly known as Christ Church, is located in the centre of the former town of Wannon. The timber structure, built using panels of weatherboard, is unusual although well detailed. The roof made of asbestos cement shingles laid in a diaper pattern is also unusual. The ten diamond leadlight windows were donated, along with all of the timbers and interior fittings. The building was constructed as the local Anglican Church in 1911. It was converted to a Scout Hall in 1984 following the decline of the local congregation. Despite the loss of interior fittings, the condition of the former church is very good.

How is it significant?

Mallengeeba Scout Hall, the former Christ Church at Wannon, is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Wannon and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Mallengeeba Scout Hall is of historical significance for its fifty year history as the Christ Church Anglican Church at Wannon, during which it served as a religious and social centre for the local community. The historical significance of the former church is enhanced by its association with many prominent landholders and civic leaders, who were important benefactors. Its recent history as a regional scout and guide hall has significance for its role as a community and leisure centre.

The Mallengeeba Scout Hall, formerly Christ Church, Wannon, is of architectural significance as an unusual form of timber construction.

COMPARISON:

238 All Saints Anglican Church, Burchett and Cobb Sts, Peshurst
013 Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Church St, Coleraine
081 St David's Anglican Church and Hall, Nareen-Coleraine Road, Nareen
093 St Michael's Catholic Church, Glenferrie Rd, Harrow
157 St Mary's Anglican Church, E cnr Stirling and Bell Streets, Balmoral
304 St Peter's Anglican Church, McLennan Street, Glenthompson
412 St Mary's Anglican Church, SW cnr Wills & Stirling Street, Dunkeld
446 St Mark's Anglican Church, cnr Bunbury St and Henty Hwy, Cavendish

ASSESSED BY: mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

6/12/2002

EXISTING LISTINGS:

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HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
B. J Pepper	Holy Trinity Church 1865-1990	1990	49