

External Integrity

Trim paint colours, boxing at the roller shutter top and new second level parapet details (?) are probably new.

Streetscape Contribution

Isolated

Significance

Historically, possibly symbolic of Yarraville's traditional industrial role and hence as the site for power stations and terminals but fundamentally as part of the State's early electrification grid and one of the oldest surviving among SEC power buildings¹. Recommended for individual planning protection.

Young People's Hall, part Salvation Army group, 78 Ryan Street, Footscray.

History

Built in 1920 for £1528/19/11, this was the third building on the site, the six-room weatherboarded quarters having been built there one year before and the original 'Senior Hall' in 1887 for £596/19/5.² The land had cost £125 in December, 1887.³ One Charles H. Wiflen was the first to reside on the site in c1920, followed by others such as John R. Dusing, Francis Walters, Richard Drew and Hector Reeve.⁴

Having established the first barracks at Prahran and North Melbourne in the early 1880s, this site was among the Army's early endeavors. The residence and Young People's Hall designs at Footscray are typical of the Army and its work, but from a later period. A similar Army hall also survives in Yarraville.

Description

An early photograph of the completed Footscray complex shows the 1887 hall, with its truss-gable and timber 'ashlar,' matched by the later hall and residence in the colour scheme, form and detailing. All that remain from this photograph is the Young People's Hall - with its weatherboarded walls, scalloped gable fascia, gable trussing and pointed wall

openings. The square-top timber picket fence shown in the photograph has gone and what may be part of the old hall lies north of the 1920 hall, its own site now taken by a new brick hall.

External Integrity

Fence gone, old hall (?) and residence demolished.

Streetscape

Isolated in altered residential area, now blighted by spread of the Footscray commercial area.

Significance

As with many other Salvation Army halls, this was a long-term centre for community worship and, because of the wide range of Army activities, it presumably served the community in ways other than religious. Given the demolition of 2/3 of the complex, this building is symbolic of the early work of the Army in Footscray. Recommended for individual planning protection.

St. Luke's Anglican Sunday School later Church, 9-13 York Street, Yarraville

History

The 1877 Borough of Footscray plan shows York Street empty, with only a few buildings dotted along the Stephen and Hyde Streets.⁶ The 1894 MMBW Plan, however, shows the church and a number of timber houses nearby.

The land had emerged as Ben Bowater's 3 acre grant of 1855 and passed to James Ross, a gardener of Talbot, in 1858. It was brought under Torrens in 1876 by one Leek, presumably in preparation for a sale.⁷ The surveyor, L. Harris, created a subdivision of the grant in 1876, followed by further subdivision in the 1890s.⁸ Potential building sites were therefore available from 1876 onwards. As a result, the this Sunday School (stone, 40 feet x 25) was built for £322/10/- and opened by May 1878 under the care of a lay reader (H J Howell), appointed from St. John's parish.⁹ Prior to this services had taken place in the home of James C K Reid¹⁰

1 Yallourn station survives in part?, town demolished 1975-

2 Property File, Salvation Army

3 ibid.

4 D1920-1945

5 Salvation Army property file

6 CPO Melb. Roll Plan 41

7 RGO SN8941

8 LP265, 283 and 3424

9 A Brief History of the Parish of St. Luke, Yarraville (typescript held by Anglican archives) also another cites *Church of England Messenger* 13.4.78, 12.7.78

10 ibid.

A Mr. Harris prepared the plans gratis and liberal donations came from messrs. Herrenschmidt and Cuming of Cuming Smith & Co.¹

The first directory entry for both York Street and the 'Church of England School' was in 1884. John C. McCann was the only other listing in the street.² Later entries had it as a church, with a resident Minister, the Rev. Charles Brewer; the Revs. Samuel Scott, George Watson and Arthur Raymond following. In 1886 the parish of St. Luke's had separated from St. John's, allowing Brewer to become the first vicar³.

Tenders were called in 1897 to add a tower and east end chancel but only the latter was taken up as Howsies' contract for £116/10/-. Gas burners were also replaced by incandescent gas lights⁴. The fund raising surrounding the improvements added a rich collection of events to the building's history: concerts, choral performances, plays, limelight displays and bioscope exhibitions also the new cinematograph for moving pictures⁵. After 1905, 25 Schild Street was acquired for the vicarage, acting another Cuming Smith donation.

By c1914 it was called St. Luke's Church of England Sunday School⁶, presumably meaning the timber hall which had been moved to the site from Williamstown in 1906. The church was lit by electricity in 1917 and the choir 'robed' for the first time. After the hall was moved again in 1921, the old church was sold and used by the Brethren. A new church was opened in 1923 on Somerville Road, followed by a vicarage in 1934.

Under the private ownership of Martha G. Dumbleton (administered by Elizabeth Dumbleton), the building continued as a Gospel Hall from the 1920s into the 1940s, after ceasing to be a Sunday School. Reputedly, it was leased to a local gospel group in that period, the Trustees of the Open Brethren (W.H. Dempsey, E.L. Gates, A.G. Quinton, J.W. Fearn, W. Matheson and Rice Clayton) eventually acquiring it by the late 1940s.⁷

Description

A simple gabled basalt masonry church with a stuccoed porch at its north end. An oculus vent is the only embellishment to the building.

Early plans (1894) show it free-standing, without the rear addition.⁸ Reputedly the interior has heavy timber trusses and pine ceilings.⁹

External Integrity

Additions at rear; fence gone.

Streetscape

Part of a 19th and 20th century residential area.

Significance

For a long period the centre of Anglican worship in Yarraville and as such the beneficiary of generous grants from James Cuming. It is built from the local stone, representing both the community's occupation and their religious zeal.

Recommended for individual planning protection.

- 1 ibid.
- 2 D1884, D1883
- 3 ibid.
- 4 ibid.
- 5 ibid.
- 6 D1915
- 7 RB1950, 1730; RB1947-8, S3
- 8 MMBW RP (1894)
- 9 Age, 3/4/1988