

Building:

Former Congregational Church
Hall: 22 Peel Street



Allotment Reference:

52

National Trust Register:

-

National Estate Register:

-

Historic Buildings Council Register:

-

Location within Precinct:

Collingwood Slope

Photograph Date: 12.6.37

Grantee: S.A. Donaldson

Original Owner: Congregational Church

Present Owner:

Original Use:

Present Use: State Electricity Commission:
Metropolitan Electricity Supply
- Collingwood Area Centre
(vacant)

Former Use: lecture hall

Construction Date: 1874 (?) 1883 (?)

Architect:

Builder:

Description: A two storeyed corrugated iron clad hipped roof brick building with eaves brackets, fireze panel and plain stuccoed string course. The openings are generally segmentally arched, the front doors being surmounted by a fan light and elliptical arch. The base of a stuccoed pilaster and quoined bluestone plinth remain on the south east corner

Condition: Good

Integrity: Good

History: The original church on this site was built of logs, in 1852 (The Age, 19.6.33). In 1854, the architect, Alfred Taylor Snow prepared plans for a grandiose, classically inspired chapel on a bluestone plinth (S.T. Gill illust.) which was subsequently built (Hodgkinson map of 1858). By 1863 (S & M dir.) the Independant Chapel shared the site with "national schools", a

452

situation which remained unchanged until the lecture hall, in 1874 facing Peel Street was opened (S & M dir. first entry for lecture hall). The present building may date from this period. In 1883 a new church, classically inspired with four pilasters supporting entablature and pediment was erected. Known as the Congregational church, it was built on the bluestone base of the former chapel. The rear, remaining, section may also date from this period. The church and hall remained unchanged until 1952 when the church was demolished (last entry S & M dir - 1951. La Trobe Picture Collection records August 1949 as the date by which demolition had occurred) the Congregational Hall remaining with Arthur Such as its last caretaker until 1958 when it closed (last entry, S & M dir 1957). In 1959, the SEC took up occupancy.

Significance:

The former Congregational church hall is the final remnant of the church's presence on this site and is important in this respect. The remnant bluestone plinth and pilaster base are also of note, having their origins in the 1883 church and possibly the 1854 chapel.

Recommendations:

Recommended for planning scheme protection

References:

Sands and McDougall Directories
La Trobe Library spf H 4864,
H26849
Caldwell, C. Album of
Photographs of 19th Century
Architecture, 2 views.

Issue:

No. 1