



### South Geelong Sons of Temperance Hall 441 Moorabool Street

#### History

(refer 449-471 Moorabool Street)

South Geelong Wesleyan building commenced with the Balliang Street School in 1854 (designed by Benjamin Backhouse<sup>1</sup>), then came the teachers' residence (1859), the stone church in 1869, and this temperance hall in 1884.<sup>2</sup>

Already occupying a comfortable reserve, the South Geelong's Wesleyans sought and won a further prime corner site, opposite the residence in 1888.<sup>3</sup> Geelong architect, A.J. Derrick & Co., and the builder, J.C. Taylor, combined to create the hall for £673 and a completion date at the end of May, 1884.<sup>4</sup> As one of the earliest barracks occupied in Victoria, the Salvation Army took possession of this hall, once complete (see also North Melbourne and Prahran), following the classical architectural choice already made at North Melbourne.<sup>5</sup>

When opened, in July, 1884, it was noted as an improvement to 'that portion of town.' The hall was gas-lit and plastered, inside and out, with 'slight distemping along the wainscoting,' to offset the otherwise 'old' aspect. A sliding door taken across the stage was a feature of the hall, allowing the stage's use as a lodge room.<sup>6</sup> The architects, A.J. Derrick & Co., designed most of the Geelong district Wesleyan buildings of the period, (Malop Street Mission Hall, 1887-8), along with the Chilwell Reading Room and hall, and the Corio Oval grandstand.<sup>7</sup>

#### Description

Mainly seen today as a finely detailed classical gable (with oculus vent), projecting over 1960s offices, the former hall can also be seen from the rear as an unplastered gabled brick (painted) hall fronting a car park. The former Barabool Shire Office additions extend down the south side as well as the west, so effectively enclosing at least two elevations. The former main entrance is visible within the new office as a steel fire door in a smooth

1 Huddle V1, p.64 cites GA 15.12.53 tenders for building part of chapel  
2 see Yarra Street Geelong Circuit Property Schedules (held by the Uniting Church) 1861, 1873.  
3 GA 22/3/84  
4 GA 24/3/84  
5 GA 22/8/84  
6 GA 15/7/84  
7 MUAI

plastered wall. The hall interior may be more complete (not inspected).

**External Integrity**

(see above)

Presumably three elevations are now obscured and altered in some way; the remaining elevation's brickwork has been painted.

**Streetscape**

Formerly part of an elegant 19th century church complex, the hall and the residence (demolished) site have been severely compromised by unrelated later development, as has the worth of the complex as a whole. Nevertheless, with the retention of part of this building, the complex can still be understood if not enjoyed.

**Significance**

Historically, a public meeting place which symbolizes in its creation the great influence held by the church in the 19th century, (i.e., reserve acquisition, above the existing generous grant); also, one of the first barracks to be occupied by the Salvation Army in Victoria and for a long period part of a Wesleyan Church complex which had commenced in the 1850s. Although potentially of significance, the building's external expression of these things is now severely limited.

Architecturally, an extensively altered design in the Greek/Roman (pagan) temple form, of which the most decorated and impressive element (the gabled pediment) still survives.