



### Free Presbyterian Guild Hall, 33 Myers Street

#### History

This classical revival building was the last major part of the extensive 'High Church' or St. Giles Free Presbyterian Church complex. It serves as an entry annex to the first stage of the Guild Hall which survives at the rear in a timber Queen Anne style form<sup>1</sup>. The first stage was opened with much celebration in May 1908, watched over by the Guild committee which included D.F. Griffiths (president) and secretaries, D. F. Neilson and W. J. Griffiths<sup>2</sup>. Geelong mayor, T E Bostock, promised money and G. F. Walter gave books for the hall's new library.

Architects, Laird & Buchan, designed the addition for construction in 1927-8, replacing the previous picturesque twin-gables and central porch entry of the old hall behind.<sup>3</sup>

#### Description

Designed in a simple Greek revival, the hall differs sharply from the Gothic Tudor architecture of the rest of the complex. Composed as three bays, Tuscan-order attached column pairs frame the hall's entrance portico and paired pilasters demarcate its corners. A simple plinth

and virtually unornamented entablature underscore the simplicity demanded by the style, seen elsewhere at the Emily McPherson Domestic Economy School, Russell Street, Melbourne.

#### External Integrity

Generally original.

#### Streetscape

Isolated, with some large-scale compatibility with the other parts of the St. Giles complex but, otherwise, contrasting with the complex's Medieval-era stylism.

#### Streetscape

Architecturally, an unusual style and high integrity for this period and the civic use in Geelong.

Historically, a continuation of the historic St. Giles complex.

1 GA 16.5.08/3, 3.5.28/2; D1915-55

2 ibid.

3 GW & ST, DRP716 Plan, 15/12/27