

FORMER BAPTIST CHURCH

482 Chapel Street, South Yarra, 3141



Recommendations It is recommended that this building be added to the Register of Historic Buildings, Register of the National Estate and be protected using the provisions of Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

History and Description This Baptist Church was erected in Chapel Street, Prahran in 1866, replacing a wooden chapel which had been erected in 1857 on a site donated by the pastor Mr. Joseph Wilson. In March 1865 a building committee was formed under the Rev. David Rees, and as a result the architect Mr. T. Watts was instructed to prepare plans for a larger church building. The foundation stone for this was laid 22 May 1866 and a builder by the name of Brown was commissioned to complete the work. Although not erected in complete accordance with the architect's original design, the church building is simple in form with a gable roof atop a basically rectangular building. Classical in appearance, the building features a large pediment which terminates the gable roof and a central arched porch which projects from the symmetrical iron facade. Arch headed windows alternate with pilasters along the side facades and between 1875 and 1882 the building was enlarged and improved.

Significance This early church is an important building which has been retained amongst later buildings, in Chapel Street. It is a significant landmark, and an early building in this important location in Prahran.

Intactness This Baptist Church has been retained largely in its original condition and form and its cement render finish remains unpainted. At the rear, substantial and sympathetic additions have occurred at an early date.

References

Cooper, J.B. The History of Prahran, Melbourne, 1924. p. 80.  
Wilkin, F.J. Baptists in Victoria, Our First Century, 1838-1938  
Melbourne, 1939.

Illustrated Australian News, 27 June 1866, p. 13, illustration and description of new church building.