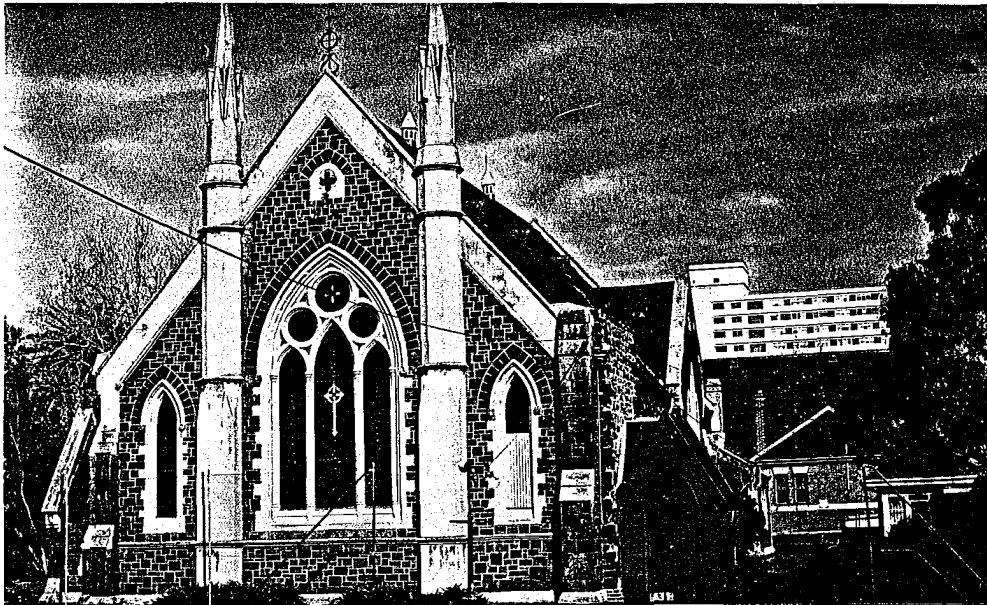


FORMER INDEPENDENT CHURCH AND HALL  
246 Malvern Road, Prahran, 3181



Recommendations It is recommended that these buildings 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 The second Independent Church in Prahran was erected in Commercial Road by the builder John Young, to designs by the eminent Melbourne architects, Crouch and Wilson. The foundation stone of this church, which replaced the original chapel of 1852 after which Chapel Street was named, was laid on 22 November 1858 by the Governor of Victoria, Sir Henry Barkly. The bluestone building, subsequently erected, is of squat proportions and adopts gothic motifs. The symmetrical front facade features a central pointed arch window flanked by rendered octagonal piers, which terminate in pinnacles above, and Lancet windows. The steep slate roof features an elaborate iron finial, small gable vents and small fleches. At the rear of the church building, a small bluestone addition features cream brick quoining which accentuate the chimney breast, corners and sharply angled window heads. The foundation stone of the hall, located at the rear of the church, was laid on 15 September, 1883.

Significance This bluestone church, situated on a large site near the corner of Malvern Road and Chapel Street, is an important early work of the architects Crouch and Wilson, who continued to execute many ecclesiastical works in Melbourne.

Intactness This church remains incomplete although an early timber porch on the west entrance substitutes for the intended stone construction.

References

- Cooper, J. The History of Prahran, Melbourne, 1924.  
p. 42 and 211.  
Photographs, South Yarra Library, c. 1880's.  
Independent Church, Prahran, Jubilee Memento, 1902.  
Independent Church, Prahran, Centenary Memento, 1952.