

# HISTORIC PLACES DOCUMENTATION SHEET

Geelong Regional Commission

Sheet No 298

PLACE NAME: PRESENT ABERDEEN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF NEWTOWN

## ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (References)

STYLE OR PERIOD: Victorian Eclectic. (Romanesque)

ARCHITECT(S)/DESIGN ORIGIN: Thomas Watts, architect,  
Reference: Melbourne.

Geelong Advertiser, 27th January 1876

BUILDER: possibly Alexander Dick  
Reference: Sutherland, A. Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol. II p.153

## PRINCIPAL ARTISANS/ARTISTS/TRADES

Reference:

TENDER NOTICE: Geelong Advertiser, 27th January, 1876  
Reference:

DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION  
Reference:

ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE \$5000

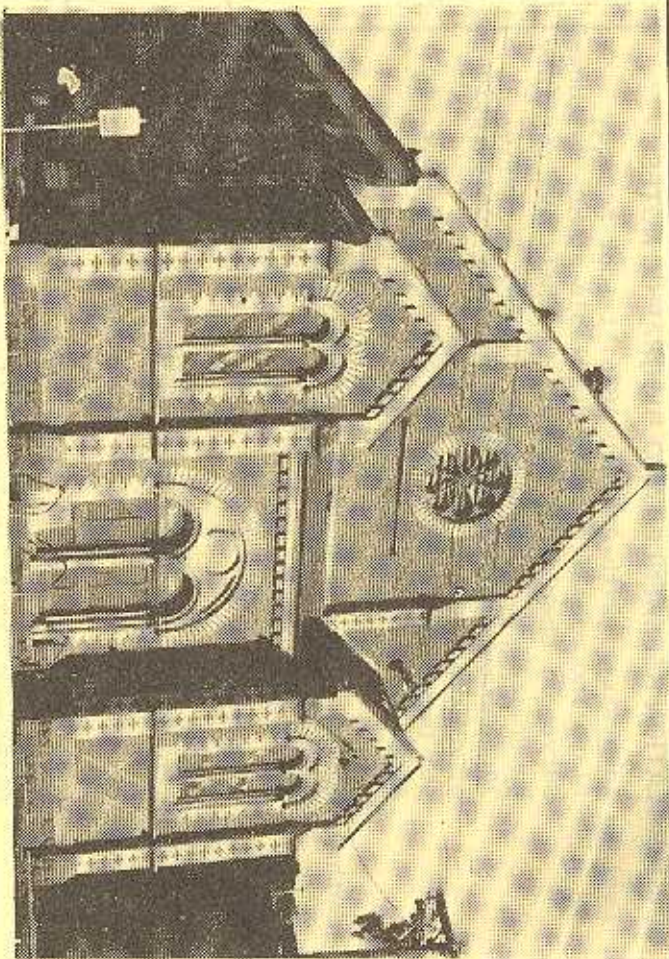
Geelong Advertiser, 4th December 1883

## SUBSEQUENT WORKS/ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS

## ORIGINAL OWNER(S)/OCCUPANT(S)

Aberdeen Street Baptist Congregation  
SUBSEQUENT SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/OCCUPANTS

OTHER NOTES The Church was opened on Sunday 19th  
November, 1876.



## NEGATIVE FILE:

☐ Australian Heritage Commission  
Register of National Estate

☒ Historic Buildings Preservation Council  
Register No. 427

☐ National Trust of Aust. (Vic)  
Classified/Recorded  
File No. ....

☒ Geelong Regional Commission  
Register No. 101

## IDENTIFICATION DATA

PLACE NAME Present Aberdeen Street Baptist Church  
ADDRESS 3 Aberdeen Street,  
Newtown. 3220.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA City of Newtown  
TITLE INFORMATION

## MAP REFERENCE

PRESENT USE Church  
PRESENT OWNER/LESSEE Baptist Church C/- Rev. B.L. Baker,  
ADDRESS 1 Aberdeen Street, TELEPHONE (052)  
Newtown 3220



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# DOCUMENTATION REFERENCES AND BIOGRAPHIC NOTES

Geelong Advertiser, 27th January 1876, tender notice.

Plans and specifications available at Mr. Matthews, Surveyor, Cheringhap Street, Mr. Matthews possibly supervised the construction for Mr. T. Watts.

20th November 1876, opening ceremony, description of church given.

4th December 1883, mentions debt of £1000 of the £5000 it cost to build the church.

Sutherland, A. Victoria and Its Metropolis, Past and

Present, 2 Volumes, McCarron, Bird and Co., Melbourne, 1888, Vol. 2 p. 536. biographical sketch of Thomas Watts, architect.

Smith, J (Ed), The Cyclopedia of Victoria, 3 Volumes,

The Cyclopedia Co., Melbourne, 1903, Vol. 1 pp 383-84. biography of Thomas Watts.

Taylor, M.J., 'Thomas Watts, Architect', History Research

Essay, Department of Architecture, University of Melbourne, 1971, includes illustrations of the works of Thomas Watts but little text and no illustrations of Aberdeen Street Baptist Church.

## CITATION

The Aberdeen Street Baptist Church was erected in 1876 to the design of architect Thomas Watts of Melbourne, and replaced the original adjacent church of 1853. This elaborately detailed polychromatic brick church, eclectically derived from Romanesque and Gothic sources is a distinguished work of architect Watts and an important structure in a complex of church buildings which includes the original church and later manse. The church is one of the first polychromatic designs in Victoria.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF PLACE

- ☒ Its creative and/or technical accomplishment.
- ☐ Its demonstration of a way of life, custom, process or function no longer practised.
- ☒ In danger of being lost or of exceptional interest.
- ☒ Its strong association with an important figure or figures, development, or cultural phase.
- ☐ Its townscape and/or landscape value.
- ☐ Its scarcity value.

## SIGNIFICANCE

- ☐ LOCAL ☐ REGIONAL ☒ STATE ☐ NATIONAL ☐ WORLD

## CONDITION

- ☒ EXCELLENT ☐ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☐ DETERIORATED ☐ RUINS

## INTEGRITY

- ☒ HIGH ☐ LOW ☐ ALTERED ☐ DAMAGED

## RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission Register  
Historic Buildings Council Register

## DOCUMENTATION —

Allan Willingham, Architect, 151 McKean St.,  
North Fitzroy, 3068. Tel: 03 489 8492.

## SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....