

## GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

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**Site Name:** Christ Church Hall

**Project File No:** 0964

**Address:** 275 Latrobe Terrace Geelong 3220

**Approx. Date:** 1911

**Integrity:** High

**Significance Level:** C (Local)

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**Photograph No:** 03.03

**Survey Date:** March 2002

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### History

This site comprising the old Church of Christ Hall, 275 Latrobe Terrace, Geelong (but actually facing Little Myers Street), is located on part of Allotments 6 and 7, Section 50, of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. Allotments 6 and 7 have since been combined and renumbered as no.11, possibly in c.1930.

The Church of Christ building, facing Latrobe Terrace, was formerly the Free Anglican Trinity Church, designed the Geelong architects by Backhouse and Reynolds and built in 1859 at a cost of 2,930 pounds. In October 1907, this church was leased by the Church of Christ, a denomination with both British and American origins, introduced into Victoria in 1853, and established in Geelong in 1857. Previously the Church of Christ congregations had met in the Mechanics' Institute, then in the Temperance Hall, and finally in a church they had built in Hope Street, Geelong West, in 1878.

During the ministry of Brother Gifford Gordon, from April 1910 until 1914, it was decided to build a hall, which would also serve as a Sunday School, on vacant land to the south-east of the church in Latrobe Terrace. The designer and contractor are unknown, but the hall was erected in 1911, with a kitchen added in 1912. In 5 years the Bible Class grew to 100 members. The building is now used by Alcoholics Anonymous as a meeting room. A new

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church Hall was constructed in 1958 at the rear of the church building.

The rented church was purchased by the Church of Christ between 1918 and 1923, for 1,785 pounds, but the land surrounding it, now Allotment no.11 (on which the former Sunday School Hall stands), was not purchased by the Properties Corporation of the Churches of Christ (of 52 Latrobe Street, Melbourne) until 28 April 1980.

### Description

The Christ Church Hall, 275 Latrobe Terrace, Geelong, is situated to the south-east of the Church building on a large allotment and faces Little Myers Street. Surrounding the hall is a barren landscape of grassed areas, concrete kerbed bitumen driveway and carparking., with the early Church building and a more recent hall nearby.

The single storey, stuccoed brick, early 20th century Early English Gothic Revival styled hall building is characterised by a simple, parapeted, steeply-pitched gabled roof form that is clad in early slate tiles. The gable end parapets have rendered copings and terminate into flat, corbelled parapet corners. The building also has an early unpainted bluestone plinth.

Another early feature of the design is the tripartite lancet windows on the main gable end. These windows have rudimentary freestone surrounds, including shallow quoins and crowning drip moulds.

Other early features of the design include the projecting buttresses at the front and sides which have double copings, and the pointed window openings at the sides with more recently timber framed windows. The trefoil ventilation opening in the rear gable end is also early.

There have been some alterations towards the rear of the building, including the removal of the kitchen that had been added in 1912.

### Statement of Cultural Significance

The Church of Christ Hall, 275 Latrobe Terrace, Geelong, has significance as part of the establishment and development of Church of Christ in the early 20th century. Built in 1911, the hall is also significant as a relatively intact example of an early 20th century Early English Gothic Revival style. There appears to be areas of surface cracking, dampness and other deterioration, and the building is in fair condition.

Church of Christ Hall, 275 Latrobe Terrace, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. Although altered, it demonstrates original design qualities of an intact early 20th century Early English Gothic style. These qualities include the simple, parapeted, steeply-pitched gabled roof form that is clad in slate tiles and the gable end parapets with rendered copings and flat, corbelled parapet corners. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the unpainted bluestone plinth, tripartite lancet windows on the main gable end with rudimentary freestone surrounds including shallow quoins and crowning drip moulds, projecting buttresses at the front and sides which have double copings, pointed window openings at the sides and the trefoil ventilation opening in the rear gable end.

Church of Christ Hall, 275 Latrobe Terrace, is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with the development of the Church of Christ in the early 20th century. In particular, this building has associations with the Church from 1911, when it was constructed for the purpose of a Sunday School.

Church of Christ Hall, 275 Latrobe Terrace, is socially significant at a LOCAL level. It is recognised by some sections of the Geelong community for religious reasons.

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Overall, Church of Christ Hall, 275 Latrobe Terrace, is of LOCAL significance.

### References

Town Plan of Geelong 1881, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Church of Christ, Latrobe Terrace, Geelong. 125th Anniversary - 1982, Booklet, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Investigator, Journal of the Geelong Historical Society, May, 1967, and September, 1973, Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Heritage Victoria, File no.H1123.

Lewis, Miles (ed.), Victorian Churches - Their Origins, Their Story and Their Architecture, National Trust of Australia (Victoria), Melbourne, 1991.