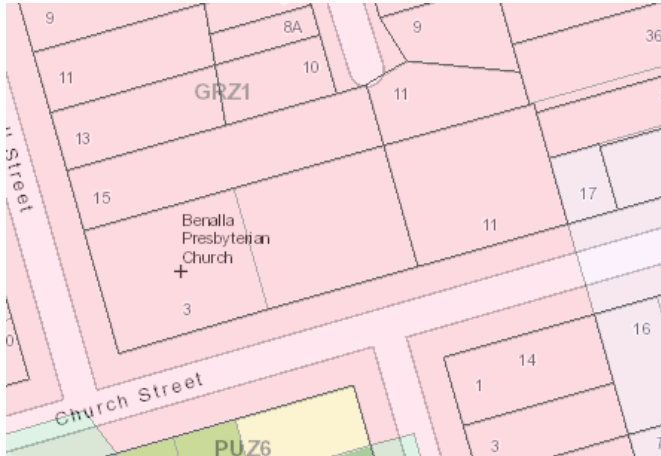


Place Citation HOXX Presbyterian Church, 3 Church Street Benalla

Address	3 Church Street, BENALLA		
Heritage Overlay	Currently a contributory place to HO26 Benalla Central Urban Conservation Area Proposed for an Individual Heritage Overlay with the applications of internal controls.		
Heritage Overlay Map			
Designer/s	Thomas Watts	Dates	1905
Significance	Local	Builder/s	Unknown
Heritage Overlay Map	Heritage Overlay map to be applied to the title area for 3 Church Street Benalla.	Survey Date	March 2024



St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (1905) 3 Church Street Benalla

The following Statement of Significance has been prepared according to the provisions of the Planning Practice Note 01: Applying the Heritage Overlay, (2018)

Assessment against criteria

The following analysis is based on Victorian Government Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018).

Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

Note: The statement of significance has been prepared for St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 3 Church Street Benalla, to reflect a change of controls. Internal controls are proposed for the church. It is currently a contributory item in the HO26 Benalla Urban Conservation Plan

See below for the statement of significance provided in the Trevor Budge and Associates, *City of Benalla Conservation Study*, 1992

Statement of Significance St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian church forms a prominent early group with the earlier church that it replaced and is of comparable date with St Joseph's church and the Holy Trinity alterations. In this respect it recalls a phase of consolidation by religious groups in the City. The octagonal tower is a distinctive element whilst the building itself is of interest as an example of the religious work of the prominent Melbourne architect, Thomas Watts.

Source: Trevor Budge and Associates, *City of Benalla Conservation Study*, 1992

The following statement of significance has been prepared for the proposed inclusion of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 3 Church Street Benalla in the Benalla Schedule to the Heritage Overlay as an Individual Heritage Overlay and with internal controls applied.

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

3 Church Street Benalla, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is significant.

The context as provided by the setting contributes to its significance.

Significant fabric includes, but is not confined to:

- the original form, fabric and scale of the church building;
- the design of the church which includes architectural features such as the transepts, apsidal end and tower with its octagonal louvred belfry with a conical faceted roof, the parapet with lancet arch motifs in cement and parapeted gablet and the stuccoed dressings and slate roof; the varnished timber ceiling lining and the contrasting ventilation openings trimmed to form trefoils; varnished timber king post trusses with gilded bosses and the Gothic foliage to the capitals.

The church building is substantially intact and it has largely retained its integrity.

How is it Significant?

3 Church Street Benalla, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, is of local historical, associative and aesthetic cultural heritage significance to the Benalla Rural City.

Why is it Significant?

3 Church Street Benalla, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is of historical significance as it is representative of an early twentieth century phase of consolidation of a number of religious entities in Benalla which includes: the construction of St Joseph's Catholic church in 1907 – 8 and the Anglican Holy Trinity Church alterations in 1905 and 1907. (Criterion A)

3 Church Street Benalla, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is of associative significance with Thomas Watts the prominent Melbourne Architect. (Criterion H)

3 Church Street Benalla, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is of aesthetic significance as a fine example of the religious works of Thomas Watts the prominent Melbourne Architect. The octagonal tower as designed by Watt is a distinctive element in what is a sophisticated and fine example of ecclesiastical architecture from the turn of the twentieth century. The finely designed interior of the church with its carefully considered Gothic Revival language is notable and not replicated elsewhere in Benalla. This includes the: varnished timber ceiling lining and the contrasting ventilation openings trimmed to form trefoils; varnished timber king post trusses with gilded bosses and the Gothic foliage to the capitals.(Criterion E)

The scale and distinctive architecture St Andrew's Presbyterian Church contributes to its landmark presence within the streetscape. (Criterion E)

Place Citation HOXX Presbyterian Church, 3 Church Street Benalla

Additional Controls

External paint controls apply	Yes
Internal alteration controls apply The varnished timber ceiling lining, the ventilation openings trimmed to form trefoils, the varnished timber king post trusses with gilded bosses and Gothic foliage to the capitals and the central lancet arch.	Yes
Tree controls apply	No
Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	No
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017	No
Prohibited uses permitted	Yes
Aboriginal heritage place	No
Solar energy system controls apply	Yes

Physical Description

Source: Trevor Budge and Associates, *City of Benalla Conservation Study*, 1992

A picturesque Gothic Revival red brick church with transepts, apsidal end and tower having an octagonal louvred belfry with conical faceted roof. The corner tower is balanced by the narthex with parapet having lancet arch motifs in cement and parapeted gablet. Brickwork is relieved by stuccoed dressings and slate roof.

Access to the nave is via a narthex across the front of the church. Inside, a sloping floor falls to the sanctuary which is flanked by small transepts and accentuated by the organ pipes contained within a central lancet arch. The varnished timber ceiling lining is enhanced by contrasting ventilation openings trimmed to form trefoils and by varnished timber king post trusses, terminated at their bases by gilded bosses with Gothic foliage to the capitals.

General History

In the late 1840s, land was granted within Benalla for the Church of England, Catholic, and Wesleyan congregations to build churches. The Presbyterians were omitted from these land grants, and it was not until the 1850s, when agricultural and pastoral land was sold, that these congregations were able to support a permanent clergy and the building of churches. The first Presbyterian service was held in Benalla in 1856 and was conducted by the visiting Rev. Dr. Nish of Bendigo. The first service was to be held in the Court House, however floods prevented would-be worshippers from crossing the river and so the first Presbyterian service in Benalla was removed to a room at the Commercial Hotel. By 1857, the Melbourne Presbytery had settled Rev. A. Grahame in the area with a charge that reached from Mansfield to Yarrawonga, and in 1865, the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria announced the appointment of the Rev. R. McNulty to the united congregations of Benalla and Mansfield. The induction service was held at the Court House in Benalla as the Presbyterian congregation was still without a church. However, town plans at the time show that in 1865, the Presbyterians received Crown Grant allotment 12, section G, which is the parcel of land on which the former Presbyterian Church presently stands.

The former church building, despite not being provided for in the initial land grants of 1849, was the most prominently located in church in Benalla, with a frontage that looked down Mair Street to the Melbourne to Sydney Road. Erected in 1866, the church was a small red brick construction in an early English Gothic style. By 1870, the Presbyterian congregation in Benalla had grown sufficiently to warrant a full-time

Place Citation HOXX Presbyterian Church, 3 Church Street Benalla

minister in Rev. Alex Murdoch. A manse was constructed next door to the church (on land now occupied by the 1958 church hall), and the church vestry was built to the north to accommodate the growing congregation. An article in 'The Benalla Ensign' in April 1871 comments on the new additions: *The Presbyterian Church in Benalla is making good progress towards completion. The latest step in this direction is comfortably seating the church [...] The manse is likewise completed, and the Rev. Mr. Murdoch and his family have entered into possession.* The following year, a bell was gifted to the church by William McKellar, the first permanent squatter in the district.

It was one of the early buildings of the Central Benalla historic area, sharing a street frontage with the Salvation Army Barracks, Primitive Methodist Church and Wesleyan Church, culminating in the name change from Barrack Street to Church Street. Despite the 1871 additions to the church, the congregation had grown too large for the 1866 church. In May 1905 the foundation stone was laid for the new brick church, which was opened in October of the same year. This church building was designed by the noted Melbourne architect Thomas Watts. The early church was then used as a Sunday school.

Source: Trevor Budge and Associates, *City of Benalla Conservation Study*, 1992

Place History

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

The memorial stone for this church was laid by David Maughan Esq. on 17 .5. 1905 and on Friday, 20.10.1905 the *Benalla Independent* reported that the church was dedicated on the previous Sunday.

Source: Trevor Budge and Associates, *City of Benalla Conservation Study*, 1992

Relevant Historic Themes as identified in the *Benalla Rural City Gaps Heritage Study: Thematic History* Prepared by Dr Robyn Ballinger

- 8. Building community life
- 8.1 Maintaining spiritual life