

BUILDING TITLE: Free Presbyterian Church **BUILDING ADDRESS:** Brown Street
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B || C |X| D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** church
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Gray St Commercial **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 || 3 |X|
STYLE: Gothic Revival (naive)

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. after 1859
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

Sources:

Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 63.
HSA DP No 54 & 55.

MATERIALS:

Roof: corrugated iron
Walls: brick (painted)
Dressings: brick
Plinth: brick
Windows: fixed timber
Paving: concrete
Other: timber door

SURVEY DATE: 17/5/91 **NEG FILE:** 8/9 **REPORTER:** tfh

INTEGRITY: E | G |X| F | P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** "west window" and simplicity of detailing
CONDITION: E | G |X| F | P ||

SIGNIFICANCE: Important for its historical associations with the staunch Calvinist branch of Presbyterianism, the expression of those principles in its architecture and for its dominant role in the streetscape.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate:	Rec	Inappropriate:	Rec
none apparent		brick work painted	RAM
		front fence replaced	O

O=reinstate original design S=reinstate sympathetic alternative R=remove RAM=remove by approved method

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:	ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:	TITLE:
Free Gaelic Presbyterian Church		Sec CA 4 8B

COUNCIL COMPUTER #

MORE INFO OVER |X|

HAMDS124

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Free Presbyterian Church
Brown Street

The Free Presbyterian Gaelic Church (or the Free Church of Scotland) is of local significance for its simple Gothic Revival architecture and for its historical associations. The Presbyterian congregation in Hamilton had formed in 1854 including some of the most important early pioneers. It was granted land opposite the Church of England at the corner of Gray and McIntyre Streets where a church was started in 1857. ⁽ⁱ⁾ A staunchly Calvinist breakaway group formed a new congregation in 1859. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ Its Free Presbyterian Church was built in Brown Street some time after 1860 on land originally sold to or reserved for the congregation in the same year. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ This congregation, compared with that of St Andrew's, always remained small and at times barely managed to stay in existence. ^(iv)

The austere architecture of the building reflects the principles of the congregation. It is very simple and is without any decoration. The "west window" is remarkably abstract. There is no garden. The building remains significantly intact, although the brickwork has been painted, and is in good condition. It is a critical part of the streetscape and is the only religious building in the commercial area around Gray Street but relates to the nearby Uniting Church in Lonsdale Street.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Evolution of the Town: 1860s
Religion: Presbyterianism

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 20 Gray Street
Former Wesley Methodist Church, 109 Lonsdale Street

REFERENCES

Garden, D, *Hamilton*, North Melbourne, 1984.
Free Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, pamphlet, Hamilton, 1971.
HSA DP No 54 & 55.

FOOTNOTES

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- ⁱ Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 43. This would later be the site of the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.
ⁱⁱ Ibid, p 63.
ⁱⁱⁱ This may be incorrect because the *Parish Plan* is indistinct.
^{iv} Garden, p 127.