

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: ST LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Bunbury Street CAVENDISH

STUDY NUMBER: 002

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PRECINCT: Cavendish

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 2 & 3 **SECTION:** B **PARISH:** PARISH OF CAVENDISH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 432 J10; VicRoads 228 H7; located on the south side of Bunbury Street near the beginning of the Cavendish-Coleraine Road and about 500m north-west from the centre of Cavendish.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



St Luke's Lutheran Church, Bunbury Street, Cavendish

Image Date: 11/01/03

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the church and hall buildings and all the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

St. Luke's Lutheran Church is a small bluestone building in the form of a hall. The bluestone is rock face random coursed rubble with dressed bluestone around the openings. The church has three bays with pointed arched windows. A small porch clad with pressed metal simulating rock face stone is located at the entrance of the church. The front door is of ledge and brace construction and is pointed. The main roof is corrugated iron and the roof of the porch is slate. Both roofs are hipped and have fretted bargeboards and finials of a domestic character. There is a timber extension at the rear of the church. The church is sited parallel to the street, while the hall is sited perpendicular to it. A cyclone wire fence and gates, with white painted timber posts runs along the street frontage. An old church bell, mounted on a steel frame, is located in the grounds, which have simple plantings. Located at the western end of the site is a freestanding timber framed hall with weatherboard to dado height and pressed cement sheeting above.

HISTORY:

The land on which St. Luke's Lutheran Church stands was set aside as a Presbyterian Church Reserve after 1858. The church, originally called St John's, is said to have been built as early as 1857 but this is more likely to be the foundation date of the Presbyterian congregation in the area. The Rev Angus Macdonald arrived from Edinburgh in 1857, and was appointed the minister to Hamilton, preaching at Cavendish once a month (Hamilton (ed.), 8). The earliest primary evidence of the current church is an article in the Hamilton Spectator (12/09/1862) which states "The most important event which has occurred in this township since its formation took place on Monday, the 8th inst...laying the foundation-stone of the new Presbyterian Church". The report goes on to state that Miss Agnes Walker deposited memorabilia in a cavity in the wall, Miss Mackersey of Kenilworth then set the stone, Mr. Elliott addressed the crowd at some length and the Rev. Macdonald presided over the whole ceremony. The ceremony had a sense of interdenominational goodwill and the relationship between the newly built gaol and the rising church was noted. The former was important to cure evil but the latter was more important to prevent evil. Messrs Bell were named as the contractors and Mr. Jenkins of Hamilton was named as the architect.

The church, once built, may have been used as a school as well as for worship. The use of the Gothic revival style is of interest since, until the mid 1850s, the Presbyterian denomination that were mostly Scottish and Irish eschewed Gothicism as 'popish' and for its English nationalist overtones.

The church contains a single-manual pipe organ of six stops. Its make and provenance are not known but it dates from about 1860 and is of English origin (National Trust, B2045). "The instrument is amongst the oldest remaining in the western District of Victoria and is of interest for its high level of intactness, its attractive mahogany case in the Gothic style, incorporating gilt dummy pipes, and its rare script-engraved draw stops and iron composition pedals" (ibid.).

The church was substantially repaired and redecorated immediately after World War 2, which had delayed the work. St John's Presbyterian Church became surplus to requirements following the creation of the Uniting Church of Australia in the 1970s. Uniting church services continued to be held at the church until 1983, when ownership of St John's transferred from the Uniting Church to the Lutheran Church, with a name change to St Luke's. St Luke's was formally dedicated on 15th April 1984. In the early 20th century the Cavendish Lutheran congregation had worshipped at the Urangarra School, north of Cavendish. The Cavendish parish separated from the Tarrington parish in 1939, under the ministry of Rev P D Pahl. When the Urangarra school closed, services continued until 1946 in the home of Mr. Ted Kruger at Gatun. In 1956 Pastor E V Kempe resumed Lutheran services in the Cavendish Soldiers Memorial Hall. In 1963, the congregation of St Mark's Anglican Church invited the Lutheran congregation to share their recently built church. Lutheran services

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continued in St Mark's Anglican Church until the congregation took over the St John's site, and renamed it St Luke's Lutheran Church in 1983. The adjacent hall was purchased by the Lutheran congregation from St Luke's in Hamilton in 1970, and was removed onto St Mark's Anglican Church land, where both denominations used it. The hall was relocated to its present site after 1984.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

8.6.4 Making places for worship

CONDITION:

The church and hall are in very good condition. There are some cracks in the western wall of the church which require urgent attention.

INTEGRITY:

fair degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

St. Luke's Lutheran Church (formerly St. John's Anglican) is a small bluestone building with a pressed metal clad porch, located at the western end of Bunbury Street, approximately 600 kilometres north of the center of the township of Cavendish. A relocated weatherboard hall is located to the west of the church on the same site. The church was previously used as a Presbyterian Church (St. John's) until taken over by the Uniting Church in the 1970s. It continued as a Uniting Church until the Lutheran Church purchased it in 1984. Local contractors Messrs Bell constructed the Church in 1862 to a design of John S. Jenkins, an important local architect.

The church contains a single-manual pipe organ of six stops. Its make and provenance are not known but it dates from about 1860 and is of English origin. Apparently, the organ is one of the oldest remaining in the study area.

How is it significant?

St. Luke's Lutheran Church is of historical, architectural and social significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

St. Luke's Lutheran Church is of historical interest for its unusual changes of denomination since the time of its building. Although the move from Presbyterian to Uniting church was not unusual, the move to sell a church to another denomination, and change the name is unusual. St. Luke's represents the historical changes of the congregations of Cavendish. It is of historical interest as it demonstrates the waxing and waning of popularity in the Presbyterian Church and then Uniting Church between 1862 and 1984. This reflects the changing demographics of the township of Cavendish. The move to sell the church to the Lutheran congregation in the mid 1980s represents the growing popularity of the Lutheran Church, and the settlement of many families of German descent around Cavendish from the mid twentieth century. St. Luke's is of further historical significance for the single manual pipe organ, which dates from about 1860, as this is one of the oldest pipe organs remaining in the study area, which has rare script-engraved draw stops and iron composition pedals.

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St Luke's is of architectural significance for its use of the Gothic revival style in a Presbyterian Church, as until the mid 1850s, the Presbyterian denomination that were mostly Scottish and Irish eschewed Gothicism as 'popish' and for its English nationalist overtones.

ASSESSED BY: MGT AEN TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

05-Feb-03

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR **Include in RNE** **Include in Local Planning Scheme**

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
	National Trust File - B2045 - St. John's Presbyterian Church	n.d	
	Hamilton Spectator	1862	
	Dundas Shire Centenary	1963	63-4
James Bonwick, C E Sayers, ed	Western Victoria, Its Geography, Geology and Social Condition	1970	153
Lewis, Miles, ed.	Victorian Churches Their origins, their story & their architecture	1991	var.
Rev J P Hamilton, ed	Cavendish Presbyterian Charge, historical sketch 1857-1927 : the story of seventy years	1927	var.
St Luke's Lutheran congregation, Cavendish	St Luke's Lutheran Church, Cavendish, Dedication Ceremony, 15th April 1984	1984	var.