HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: ST ANDREW'S UNITING CHURCH

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Memorial Road Glenelg Highway GLENTHOMPSON

STUDY NUMBER: 299 **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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

PRECINCT: Glenthompson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire
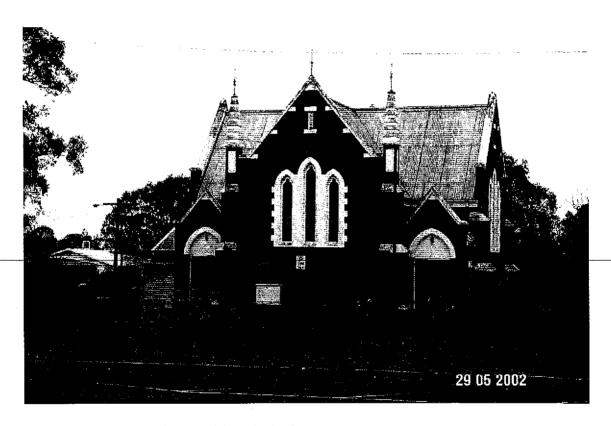
ALLOTMENT: 2 **SECTION:** 5 **PARISH:** PARISH OF YUPPECKIAR

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 434J 1; VicRoads 229 M10; located on the north side of Memorial Road, the Glenelg Highway at the north-east corner of Wyselaskie Street on the western side of the township of Glenthompson.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local

29 05 2002

St Andrews Uniting Church, Memorial Road, Glenthompson

Image Date: 29/05/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the church including its interiors, the memorial gates and all of the land but excluding the hall.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The church is in a version of the Gothic revival style conventional if not old fashioned for its time. The walls are red brick with cement rendered details now painted white. These includes arches, sills, quoins around the main tripartite window, coping stones and pinnacles above the buttresses. The plan is cruciform and is created by a nave and transepts of approximately similar length and a vestry at the rear. Two porches each fill the angles between the nave and transepts. The front doors are paired ledge and brace doors.

The entrance from the street is marked by cream brick piers and wrought iron memorial gates in memory of Mr. and Mrs. F C Thacker and their daughter Lena, donated by their other daughters May, Olive and Mabel. The Thackers are all buried at the Glenthompson cemetery.

HISTORY:

The land on which St Andrew's Church stands was purchased from the Crown on 5th December 1870 by J. D. Wyselaskie, the owner of nearby Narrapumelap at Wickliffe, who was a prominent Presbyterian philanthropist. (His name is misspelled on the Township of Glenthompson Plan and the street be side the church.) Wyselaskie donated money to the Presbyterian Church at Wickliffe to complete its tower, to Ormond College for the Presbyterian Theological (now Wyselaskie) Hall, to the Presbyterian Ladies College in Melbourne and to his old church in Sanquhar, Scotland. It seems very likely that, since he bought no other land in Glenthompson, Wyselaskie purchased this prominent site to donate it for the building of a church. He was never rated as the owner of the land.

The original Presbyterian church was opened on 5th December 1870 and was sold 44 years later. The first Minister was Rev. Alexander McLeod.

Mrs. A Cameron of Burnside, Glenthompson laid the foundation stone of the new church on 19th May 1915. It was built with bricks from the local Brickworks. The post-World War 2 gates were donated by May, Olive and Mabel Thacker in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J C Thacker and their sister, Lena. The Thackers are all buried in the Glenthompson cemetery.

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 is in excellent condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?
St Andrew's Uniting (former Presbyterian) Church is located in Memorial Road, Glenthompson at the north-east corner of Wyselaskie (officially misspelled Wylelaski) Street approximately opposite the Post Office. The church was constructed in 1915 and replaced an earlier timber structure. No architect or builder has been linked with its design. The church is a red brick building with cement render details. It has two perpendicular high pitched gable roofs covered with corrugated iron. Although cruciform in plan, its interior

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is arranged centrally as an auditorium which was typical of Presbyterian churches of the period. There are two entrances, each set within the angles of the nave and transepts. The interiors include a range of memorials, the original pews, fittings such as the altar, podium and decorative works. The church is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity. There are mid-twentieth century gates in memory of the local Thacker family.

How is it significant?

St Andrew's Uniting (former Presbyterian) Church is of architectural, historical and social significance to the township of Glenthompson and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

St Andrew's Uniting (former Presbyterian) Church is of social significance to the township of Glenthompson as the focus for the strong Presbyterian population who settled the area in the mid to late nineteenth century. Historically, it is significant for its association with the great Presbyterian philanthropist, J. D. Wyselaskie of nearby Narrapumelap and for demonstrating the strong Presbyterian faith in the Shire. Architecturally, it demonstrates a style of building which is typical of Presbyterian churches in the late ninetieth and early twentieth centuries.

COMPARISON:

159 St Andrews Uniting Church and Hall, Coleraine Road, Balmoral
069 St Joseph's Catholic Church & School, McKebery St, Coleraine
421 St Patrick's Catholic Church, Martin St, Dunkeld

ASSESSED BY: tfh & mgt **ASSESSMENT DATE:** 26/05/2002

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
Hope Henry	Glenthompson History	1954	1-3
J Ann Hone, in Bede Nairn , ed.	Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 6	1976	446-7
Shire of Mount Rouse	Mount Rouse Shire Centennary	1964	