

Statement of Cultural Significance for St James the Less Church, Macclesfield

UNDERSTAND SIGNIFICANCE

1

UNDERSTAND THE PLACE

Define the place and its extent

Investigate the place: its history, use, associations, fabric

Articles 5-7, 12, 26

ADDRESS: 24 Luck Street, Macclesfield

EXTENT: CT 5408-777, Lot 117, Section 2824, Hundred of Macclesfield, church, car park and toilet block.

HISTORY: 1867, Wright Woods

For a few decades in the middle of the 19th century, Macclesfield was one of South Australia's most significant country towns. Established in 1841, it was one of the earliest towns outside Adelaide, and during the 1840s and 50s, two hotels, several shops, a school, a brewery and four churches were established in the town. However, the town did not flourish to the extent that was expected due to its location away from major transport routes and eventually away from the railway. Thus the mid-19th-century heyday of the town created its strong character and has been well preserved due to the relatively small amount of later development. Dancker's two-storey residence and store of the early 1850s set a standard for development in the town which was later approached by substantial well-designed and constructed buildings including the Macclesfield Hotel (1854), the Catholic church (1867), and the fine classical Institute (1880).

The Catholics of Macclesfield purchased the current site in 1856, and first constructed a timber church in 1858. In 1867, the current stone church building was constructed, with tenders being called in February by significant SA architects Wright & Woods. Two contractors undertook the work, first Pennicuik and then Hague. The opening ceremony was held on 3 November. The church was also used as a school between 1867 and 1947, when the current timber building was erected nearby.

EXTENT OF HERITAGE LISTING: Not state heritage listed.

- Heritage Online 2004, Mount Barker Heritage Survey, included in the proposed Macclesfield State Heritage Area MAA
- Veenstra, c1995, Item 8/14
- Stark, P 1983, Meadows Heritage Survey, A 5.4.11
- National Trust of South Australia, NT list 3105

DESCRIPTION AND FABRIC:

Walls constructed of coursed local stone with rendered dressings, buttresses and plinth, cgi gable roof with skillion section to rear with crosses mounted at each gable summit, timber-framed openings with timber doors & timber-framed lancet windows

INTERIOR: describe the interior eg raked ceilings, heritage pews, stained glass windows, marble altar, stations of the cross, paint colours, floor coverings.

USE: St James the Less church is the sole Catholic church in Macclesfield. Masses are held weekly on Friday evenings throughout the year, attended by up to 20 people. Liturgy of the Word is held on Sunday mornings in the church for approximately 10-15 people. Additional Masses are held on special occasions such as All Hallow's Eve (All Saint's Eve), Palm Sunday and the feast of St Mary Mackillop.

The parish's Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program for children, is based in St James the Less church, meeting twice per week during school term. Weddings, baptisms and funerals are occasionally held in the church. Other groups may meet by arrangement with the parish priest. The Church is also accessible to parishioners for private prayer.

ASSOCIATIONS: (connections that exist between people and a place, including social and spiritual values and cultural responsibilities)

2 ASSESS CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Assess all values using relevant criteria

Develop a statement of significance

Article 26

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE: This is an outstanding example of a 19th-century church building which demonstrates architectural design and local construction and has significant associations with the religious development of Macclesfield, one of South Australia's most significant early rural towns.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL VALUE: The church continues to provide an appropriate setting for the spiritual support and development of the Catholic community of Mount Barker and the surrounding area.

RELEVANT CRITERIA: (Under Section 23(4) of the Development Act 1993):

- (a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area, having significant associations with the 19th-century religious development of Macclesfield.
- (c) it has played an important part in the lives of local residents, especially those who have used the church.
- (d) it displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area, being an outstanding example of an architecturally-designed 19th-century church which demonstrates high quality design & local construction techniques.
- (e) it is associated with a notable local personality or event, namely significant SA architects Wright & Woods.
- (f) it is a notable landmark in the area, being located across the river and overlooking the main street and being one of Macclesfield's most imposing buildings.

STATEMENT OF SOCIAL VALUE: [provide an assessment of this value.](#)

RELEVANT CRITERIA: [name the criteria used to develop this statement of value](#)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

[Describe the significance of this site.](#)

DEVELOP POLICY

3 IDENTIFY ALL FACTORS AND ISSUES

Identify obligations arising from significance
Identify future needs, resources, opportunities and constraints, and condition
Articles 6,12

Appropriate heating and cooling to ensure reasonable comfort of those inside the church for a period of approximately 1-2 hours, 3-4 per week.

4 DEVELOP POLICY

Articles 6-13, 26

5 PREPARE A MANAGEMENT PLAN

Define priorities, resources, responsibilities and timing
Develop implementation actions
Articles 14-28

MANAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLICY

6 IMPLEMENT THE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Articles 26-34

7 MONITOR THE RESULTS AND REVIEW THE PLAN

Article 26