

St Michael's Church & Cemetery

Place no.: 308

Address 18 Church St, Hahndorf

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

Description

Stone church building with rendered dressings, a vestry to rear & porch to front, all with cgi gable roofs; also an off-centre spired-tower to front. Features include lancet windows and timber detailing to gable ends including bargeboards and finials. Interior features include a gallery with timber-lancet detailing across front; timber altar, pulpit, hymn board & pews; ceiling including finely-detailed circular ventilator sockets. The cemetery has been confined to a small circle within the car park, and includes some surviving 19th-century and early-20th-century gravestones & railings.

Statement of Heritage Value

This outstanding Lutheran Church building was constructed by the followers of Pastor Fritzsche in 1857-8 on the site of Hahndorf's first church, and is the place of worship for Australia's oldest Lutheran congregation.

Relevant Criteria

- (a) *it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history*, being the home of Australia's oldest Lutheran congregation and being constructed on the site of Hahndorf's first church, St Michael's has significant associations with the special cultural and religious development of Hahndorf.
- (d) *it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance*, being an outstanding example of a Lutheran church building.
- (e) *it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics*, the high quality of the external design and internal detailing make this an outstanding representative of Lutheran church design.
- (f) *it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it*, being the constructed on the site of Hahndorf's first 1840 church, and housing Australia's oldest Lutheran congregation.

RECOMMENDATION

This place is recommended for inclusion in the State Heritage Register.

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Criterion (a) *it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.*

Hahndorf is a town of outstanding significance within the context of the history of South Australia, and indeed the whole of Australia. Hahndorf is of outstanding significance because of its profound associations with the first German settlers and their culture and religion. Settlers first arrived here in 1839, and by 1840 they had constructed their first Lutheran church of mud-bricks on the site of St Michael's current church. Services have been held on this site continuously since then, with the current church building being constructed around the original church in 1859. Thus, St Michael's church has close associations with the development of Hahndorf's special cultural and religious identity, and demonstrates that significant heritage to the many people who live in or visit the town.

Criterion (d) *it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.*

This is an outstanding example of a Lutheran Church in South Australia, both in terms of its special cultural heritage and associations with the State's most significant early German township; and the way in which the building demonstrates its heritage by its distinctive design, outstanding construction, and fine internal detailing.

Criterion (e) *it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.*

This is a well-designed Lutheran church with later features (including porch and tower) which complement the original stone structure and an outstanding internal integrity. Detailing such as the gallery and timber altar, pulpit and pews contribute to the authentic atmosphere of the interior of this significant Lutheran church. The external design and internal detailing of the church combine to create an outstanding representative of an Australian Lutheran church.

Criterion (f) *it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.*

There has been a Lutheran church on this site since 1840, the current stone building having been constructed around the original 1840 mud-brick building in 1859. Services have been held continuously on this site since 1840, therefore St Michael's can claim to have the longest-running Lutheran congregation in Australia.

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HISTORY

Lutheran services were first held in this locale in 1839, and a mud church was erected in 1840. The construction of the current church commenced in 1857 (around the original mud church) and was completed in 1858. The tower was added in 1938 as a centenary memorial to the Lutheran pioneers of 1838 and the founding of the church in 1839.

REFERENCES

- Hignett & Co. 1983, *Mount Barker District Heritage Survey*, S133.
- Historical Research: Anni Luur Fox & Reg Butler.
- Jensen, Elfrida & Rolf 1980, *Colonial Architecture in South Australia*, p 231.
- Local History Centre, heritage files & photographs.
- National Trust of South Australia, Classified list.
- Pike, Douglas 1957, *Paradise of Dissent ~ South Australia 1829-1857*.
- Schubert, David 1985, *Kavel's People, from Prussia to South Australia*.
- Schubert, J C 1964, *Lutheran Pioneers in Australia, the emigration, landing and establishment*.
- Whitehead, John 1986, *Adelaide ~ City of Churches*, pp 113-128.
- Young, G et al 1981, *Hahndorf Volumes 1 & 2*, p 1:143.



St Michael's Church, 2004

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SITE RECORD

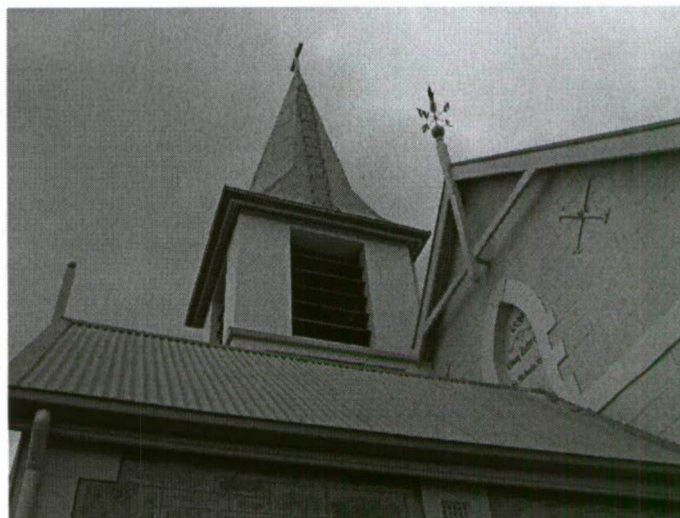
Location	18 Church St, Hahndorf
Description	Church & cemetery
Significant fabric	<p>Church exterior: stone walls including church, vestry, tower (including spire) & porch; rendered dressings; cgi gable roof; timber detailing including bargeboards & finials; lancet windows.</p> <p>Church interior: gallery including timber-lancet detailing across front; timber altar, pulpit, hymn board & pews; ceiling including finely-detailed circular ventilator sockets.</p> <p>Cemetery: surviving 19th-century gravestones & railings</p>
Land Description	Lot 30 pt, Section 253, Hundred of 253 CT 4127-215
Local Government Area	District Council of Mount Barker
Current Use	Church & cemetery
Original Use	Church & cemetery
State Heritage Status	Nil
State Heritage File No.	Nil
Other Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Heritage Online 2004, <i>Mount Barker Heritage Survey</i>, included in existing Hahndorf State Heritage Area• Hignett & Co 1983, <i>Mount Barker District Heritage Survey</i>, S133• Register of the National Estate, 7520• National Trust of South Australia, NTC
Photograph File	Mt Barker Heritage Survey\MBHS Photos\HN Church ch
Report by	Anna Pope

St Michael's Church & Cemetery

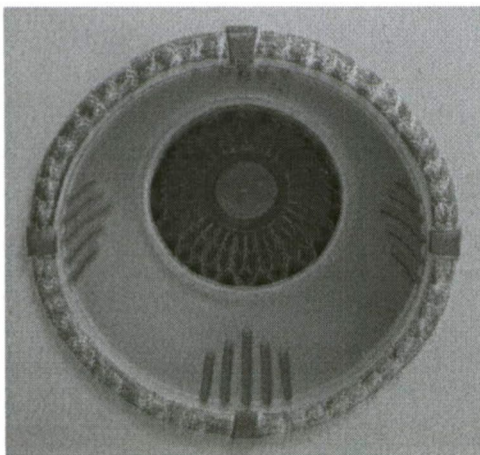
Place no.: 308



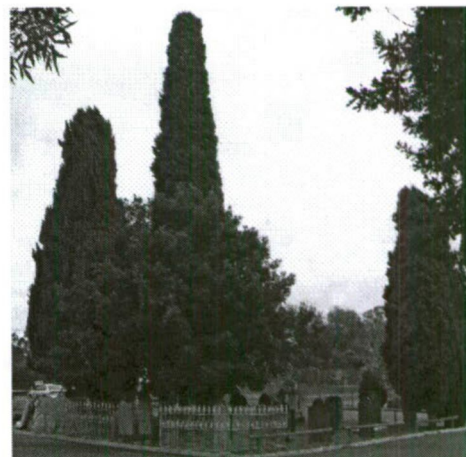
St Michael's Church from rear, 2004



St Michael's Church, detail of tower, 2004 – note hand-forged iron crosses



St Michael's Church, detail of ceiling, 2004



St Michael's Cemetery, 2004

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St Michael's Church, interior view of altar, 2004



St Michael's Church, interior showing gallery, 2004