# Statement of Significance: Former Baptist Church, 462 Chapel Street, South Yarra (June 2026)

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| **Heritage Place:** | Former Baptist Church<br>462 Chapel Street, South Yarra | **PS ref no:** | HO17 |




**Figure 1:** *Street frontage on the corner of Chapel and Wilson streets, of the Former Baptist Church, 462 Chapel Street, South Yarra* (*GJM Heritage, April 2024*).

## What is significant?

The Former Baptist Church at 462 Chapel Street, South Yarra, constructed in 1866 with rear wing and side porch constructed from 1875-1882.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include:

- Rendered brick former church building constructed in a Classical Revival style
- Bluestone base to building
- Slate-clad gabled roof with shallow eaves and large front pediment
- Rectangular plan with later side entry porch and rear two-storey wing
- Symmetrical principal elevation with dominant front pediment
- Shallow projecting front porch with infill arch, masked keystone, side pilasters, central pier and stairs
- Rows of modillions to front pediment and cornice
- Panelled pilasters with reeded capitals
- Tall arch-headed windows to front and side elevations with multi-paned glazing featuring stained glass roundels and borders.

The glazed boundary fencing, landscaping within the front setback and the small infill between the side porch and rear wing do not contribute to the significance of the place.

## How is it significant?

The Former Baptist Church at 462 Chapel Street, South Yarra is of local historical, representative (architectural) and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington.

## Why is it significant?

The Former Baptist Church, South Yarra has strong associations with the initial phase of European settlement of South Yarra in the 1850s and 1860s and was amongst the first churches built to service the spiritual needs of the early local community. The Former Baptist Church, South Yarra remains substantially intact to clearly demonstrate this initial phase of development in the City of Stonnington and the importance of religious institutions to the population at this time (Criterion A).

The Former Baptist Church, South Yarra is a fine and substantially intact representative example of a Classical Revival style church building. The former church building displays typical characteristics of the Classical Revival style, including a simple rectangular plan form with slate-clad gabled roof and shallow eaves, symmetrical principal elevation with large front pediment and projecting front porch, tall arch-headed windows and panelled pilasters with reeded capitals (Criterion D).

The Former Baptist Church, South Yarra is an assured and well-executed example of a Classical Revival style church built to a design by architect Thomas Watts. The refined detailing, including the dominant front pediment with rows of modillions, decorated pilasters and masked keystone to the projecting front porch and multi-paned arch-headed windows with stained glass roundels and borders, presents a highly resolved expression of this architectural style, creating an imposing form within the commercial streetscape (Criterion E).

## Primary source

*South Yarra Heritage Review* (GJM Heritage, March 2025).