

SORELL HERITAGE STUDY					
Address: Carlton Road, Carlton River 7173			UPI:		PID:
Name: CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL AND CEMETERY			Owner: J W & J M PRATT		
Structure Type:		Site Feature Type:	Dating: 1830-1890		1841
Feature Type:	Church	Cemetery	Access Restrictions: Restricted		
			Inspection date: October 96 P Davies		
			Style: Colonial Regency		
			Grid ref: 5425 55515 525380		
Indication of Significance: High Probable Significance			Theme: Worship Phases of Life		
Material:	Stone	Corrugated Iron	Listings: National Trust SMC Schedule 3		
Condition:	Good	Fair			
Integrity:	Intact				
National Estate Criteria: A4 B2 C2 D2 E1 F1 G1			Photograph Index: 9:21-23; 30		
Risk: Excavation: ☐ Development: ☐ Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐					
SITE DESCRIPTION: A fine small chapel constructed of free stone with squared stone quoins, sills, heads and window surrounds with a new corrugated iron roof. The building is rectangular with the door in the end wall and three curved headed windows on each side (now temporarily infilled). The building has a timber floor and is tied with steel tie rods. Recent restoration work has been undertaken to stonework to stabilise the building. The site contains a number of gravestones (two were seen in the overgrown cemetery area) of prominent local residents. It is understood that other stones have been removed so it is possible that a number of graves are on the site. This area is now overgrown with eucalypt trees and long grass and needs to be cleared. The building is well sited overlooking the river and was on the old road alignment between Lewisham and Carlton River. Its siting next to the former school (long demolished) and the cemetery and at the centre of a thriving if small community gave it a prominence overlooking the town which would have been seen as appropriate to its function.					
HISTORY: Erected on land initially granted to Joseph Steele and later purchased and given to the church by McGuiness, the church was built in 1841 after the appointment of Alexander Morrison as the Independent, or, Congregational chaplain to Pittwater. Morrison had 42 preaching stations to cover, from Bream Creek to Sorell. The church was opened for public worship by Rev J Beazley on January 10, 1841, with 'a collection being made after each service to defray the expenses incurred in erecting this Chapel.' Services continued to be held for 90 years in this church which featured a shingled roof for many years. The last services were held in 1930 with the last burial (in the general cemetery) in 1929. Since its closure it has had several owners and has been used for a range of uses including hay storage. The furnishings were evidently removed to another church on the Tasman Peninsula. The Congregational church was strong in rural areas of Tasmania in the middle years of last century and gained many adherents ahead of a less energetic Anglican Church. The listing boundary is formed by the title boundary of the property.					
BOUNDARY: The listing boundary is formed by the title boundary of the property.					

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COMMENTS:

A very fine and important early chapel building in the settlement at Carlton River that demonstrates the former importance of the settlement which once covered the waterfront of the area and now only survives as remnant buildings amidst recent rural sub-divisions.

It meets Criteria A4, B2, C2, D2, E1, F1 and G1 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate.

It should continue to be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

Blackwell submission to Sorell planning scheme

Hobart Town Courier 5 January 1841, p3

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