

Heritage Item #

MI Reference: 56 HCWA No: 1854	Place Name: Link Theatre	Other Name/s: St Paul's Presbyterian Church (fmr)
		Date of Review: October 2021



Address: 89 Duke Street East, Northam	Lot No: 157 Property Key: Plan Diagram: 2480 Vol Folio: 1886/56 Assess No: A10591
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Locality: Northam	GPS:
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Current Use: Theatre	Original Use(s): Church
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HERITAGE LISTINGS

Listings:

CONSTRUCTION

Date of Construction: 1908

Architect / Builder:

Architectural Style: Federation Gothic

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Description:

Link Theatre, located at 89 Duke Street East, is a single storey face brick building with a corrugated steel roof displaying characteristics of the Federation Gothic style of architecture.

The building is constructed in two sections, the original church building and the adjacent addition. The original church building has a symmetrical form with a steeply pitched gable roof addressing the street. There is a decorative cross at the apex of the gable roof and a painted, rendered and wide bargeboard moulding and rendered crosshatch pattern to the gable end. The front façade has face brick pilasters and rendered detail. Three lancet windows address the front façade with moulded labels and sills. There are two arched top doors to the front façade with moulded labels. The windows and doors along the front façade have been enclosed.

Attached is an extension that extends along the eastern and southern sides. The building is face brick with a parapet roof. The building has a rectilinear form with a rendered foundation and rendered banding at sill height.

<p>The entrance to the building is at the northern corner through a sculptural framed portico. The windows and doors are rectangular aluminium framed with rendered arched labels above.</p> <p>There is a garden to the front with a rock border and a sign within that reads 'LINK THEATRE'. A gravel parking lot extends along the eastern side towards the rear of the building.</p>
Condition: Good
HISTORICAL
<p>Notes:</p> <p>The first Presbyterian Church services in Northam were held in 1897 in the original Mechanics Institute building. In July 1898, a small weatherboard building became the first Presbyterian Church. During the gold boom years, the congregation increased rapidly, and work began on a new church building in 1908. St Paul's was used until the Presbyterians and Methodists in Australia joined to form the Uniting Church in the 1970s from which time services were held in the Methodist Church, so the Presbyterian Church was no longer used. The Northam Theatre Group purchased the old church, and community volunteers converted it into a theatre complex, the Link Theatre.</p>
Theme: Church, Cathedral or Chapel
Associations:
Heritage Assessment or Conservation Plan:
Public Access: Yes (limited)
SIGNIFICANCE
Level of Integrity: Medium
Level of Authenticity: High
Statement of Significance:
<p>Link Theatre is of cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The place has aesthetic significance as an example of a Federation Gothic building, which was typical of many churches of the period, that contributes to the streetscape and broader townscape character of Northam. • The place has historic significance for associations with the Presbyterian Church (1908-1970s) and Link Theatre from the 1970s. • The place has social significance as the venue for a range of functions, events, community groups and activities since 1908, both as a church and as a theatre.
Level of Significance: Considerable
Heritage Category: 2

Additional Photographs	
	
<p>North Façade Source: Municipal Heritage Inventory, 2012</p>	<p>North Façade Source: Stephen Carrick Architects October 2021</p>



Entrance to northern corner
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
October 2021



Rear of building
Source: Stephen Carrick Architects
October 2021