

## Some Joseph Reed designed buildings

Building	Location	Style
Baptist Church 1862	170-174 Collins Street John Gill designed the church in 1845, Reed designed its portico in 1862.	Classical
State Library of Victoria 1854	328 Swanston Street	Sandstone, Classical with Corinthian portico
Commercial Banking Company of Sydney 1862	251 Collins Street. Façade incorporated into the Old Commerce building, Melbourne Uni, 1935-38	Stucco, Renaissance
Wesley Church 1857-58	128-148 Lonsdale Street	Bluestone, Gothic
Royal Society 1858	1-9 Victoria Street	Stucco Classical
Gatekeeper's Lodge 1860	Grattan Street entrance to Melbourne University	Straw coloured bricks with sandstone, Tudor
Independent Church 1866-67	122-136 Collins Street (now St Michael's Uniting Church)	Brick, Polychrome Lombardic Romanesque
St. Jude's Church of England 1866-69	Corner Lygon and Palmerston Streets, Carlton	Brick, Polychrome Gothic
Rippon Lea Mansion 1868-81	192 Hotham Street, Elsternwick	Brick, Polychrome Lombardic Romanesque
Wesleyan Methodist Church 1869-70	180 Palmerston Street, Carlton	Bluestone, Norman Romanesque
Melbourne Town Hall 1869-80	Corner Swanston & Collins Streets	Plastered walls (rectangular pillars projecting from the wall),
National School 1869-77	Faraday Street, Carlton Reconstructed 1877	Brick, French Renaissance
Scots Presbyterian Church 1873	140-154 Collins Street	Sandstone & limestone, Gothic
Trades Hall 1873	2 Lygon Street, Carlton	Stucco, Classical
Congregational Church 1878	357 Rathdowne Street, Carlton	Brick, Polychrome Gothic
Wilson Hall 1878-82	Melbourne University, Parkville Destroyed by fire 1952	Sandstone, Gothic
Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens 1879-1880	Nicholson Street, Carlton UNESCO World Heritage site 2007	Stucco, Classical with Florentine dome
Ormond College 1881-82	Melbourne University, 49 College Crescent, Parkville	Sandstone and brick, Scottish Baronial gothic
Church of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart 1910	Rathdowne Street, Carlton Opposite the Carlton Gardens. Designed by Reed, Smart & Tappin	Red brick Classical

## Colonial architect Joseph Reed

The Construction of the Church of All Nations  
150th Anniversary Celebrations



### Background

Joseph Reed (c1823 – 1890) came to Melbourne from Cornwall when he was 30. A year later, 1854, he won the competition to design the Public Library. He formed successive partnerships:

Reed & Barnes from 1863

Reed, Henderson and Smart 1883-1890

Reed, Smart, Tappin 1890

Most authorities say the major designs came from Joseph Reed until about 1883, when Barnes retired. Reed's former partnership now trades as Bates Smart McCutcheon (BSM). BSM has deposited their collection of historical drawings, including those for CAN, in the Melbourne University Archive. We are grateful to both organisations for providing the images of the drawings reproduced here.



Joseph Reed (c1823 – 1890), the designer of the CAN church in 1869 and 1882.

### Joseph Reed's architecture

Reed used a variety of styles for his designs. They are remarkable for their diversity. The buildings were constructed in brick and stone, some were stucco (rendered), some polychrome while others a single colour, and their styles included Romanesque, Gothic, Classical, Tudor and Scottish Baronial. His buildings range in scale from the modest gatehouse at the Grattan Street entrance to the University to the grandeur of the Melbourne Town Hall and the Exhibition Building.

In executing a given design, he was faithful to the style he had chosen, executing its features with consistency. His designs do not draw attention to the architect.

He returned from a visit to Europe, in 1863, inspired by the brick architecture of Lombardy, Italy. He then produced designs, based on this inspiration, for St. Judes, the Independent Church in Collins Street, Rippon Lea and the Faraday Street School.



Joseph Reed designed St Jude's Anglican Church, opposite CAN in Lygon Street, in the polychrome Lombardic style.

At times he produced two designs and allowed the clients to choose. He might then use the one not chosen for a subsequent commission. It seems that St. Jude's and the Independent Church Collins Street were an example of two such different styles (Gothic and Lombardic), both in polychrome brick.

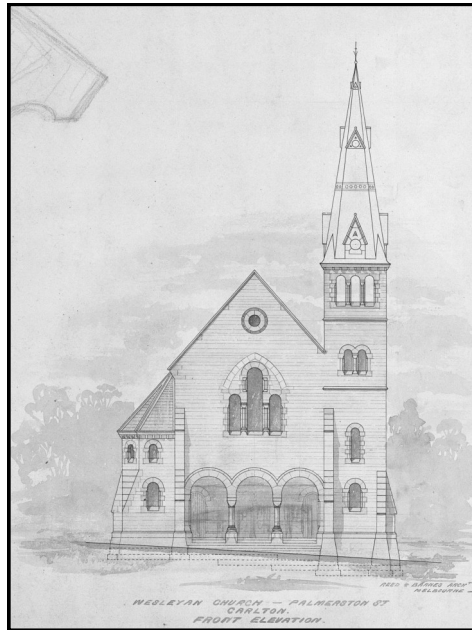
In their article for 'Carlton: A History', Renate Howe and Tom Hazell wrote: "Carlton is a museum of the ecclesiastical architecture of Joseph Reed and the various architectural firms with which he was associated. His firm designed almost every major church building in Carlton, including the Wesleyan Methodist Church, St. Jude's, the Congregational Church and the Church of the Sacred Heart." Even his design for the 1880 Royal Exhibition Building, in Carlton Gardens, has hints of ecclesiastical design in its cross-shaped plan and Florentine dome. The Exhibition Building, and its garden setting designed by William Sangster and Joseph Reed, were inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2004, in recognition of being the only remaining Palace of Industry from a nineteenth century world fair on its original site.

## The colonial architect's legacy

Joseph Reed is regarded as Victoria's pre-eminent colonial architect. Much of his success was achieved by participating in competitions, maintaining clients for a lifetime and being chosen for important commissions. His best works are often considered to be his city churches and Wilson Hall (1878-82), unfortunately destroyed by fire. We are fortunate that most of his other buildings remain.

## Where is the foundation stone?

Both the Argus newspaper and the Wesleyan Chronicle record that the foundation stone for the new bluestone church was laid by Mr. S. G. King on Tuesday 27th July 1869. The Argus reported, "A glass bottle was placed under the stone containing the Melbourne daily papers, the annual missionary reports, the Wesleyan Chronicle, and other publications relating to the Wesleyan body."



Reed and Barnes 1869 drawings for the bluestone church. This south elevation shows the original two entrance doors at each end of the portico. The pencil shape in the top left corner was probably part of a sketch used during construction by John Pigdon. The spire was never built. (Bates, Smart, McCutcheon and University of Melbourne Archives)

But where is the foundation stone? The foundation layers of the building, above ground level, have been searched for without success. There are two theories:

- Through road rebuilding over the last 150 years, the level of the surrounding ground has been raised enough to cover the stone.
- The more likely explanation is that the stone has no inscription.

The reports in the Argus and the Chronicle don't mention any inscription. It seems that, in the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, several church foundation stones were not inscribed. The minutes of the Board of Management of the North Carlton Presbyterian Church, one of the congregations that forms CAN's heritage, record documents placed in a leaden jar in their foundation stone in 1870, but again don't mention an inscription. This church was demolished in the 1970s.

When researching for the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Wesley Church Lonsdale Street Melbourne, Rev. Bill Gillard and his colleagues found a reference to the location of its foundation stone and found it lacking an inscription. Other buildings with foundation stones lacking inscriptions are the St. Kilda Town Hall (1859), the 1861 Jubilee Primitive Methodist Church at Chewton, east of Castlemaine, and Wesley College Melbourne (1866).

The lack of an obvious foundation stone on the church is in stark contrast to the CAN Centre building next door which has three inscribed stones. Two were laid on the 18th February 1933, one by Rev. E. H. Sugden and the other by Fred J. Cato. The third stone was laid in the Ruth Sugden Tower on 19th July 1933 by Dr. Alan B. McCutcheon to commemorate the life and work of Ruth Hannah Sugden (1860-1932).

Following the practice of other churches lacking an inscribed foundation stone, CAN has had a stone in the floor of the portico inscribed with the words: "TO THE GLORY OF GOD" This stone was unveiled by Rev. Alistair Macrae on 11 April 2010 to mark the 150th anniversary of this congregation. The original foundation stone of this church, exact location unknown, was laid on 27 July 1869."



Reed and Barnes 1869 drawings for the bluestone church. This south elevation shows the original two entrance doors at each end of the portico. The pencil shape in the top left corner was probably part of a sketch used during construction by John Pigdon. The spire was never built. (Bates, Smart, McCutcheon and University of Melbourne Archives)