

PART 3

15. PLANNING THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

Singleton Argus of Wednesday 21st May, 1958 wrote the following report of the church plans.

**Christian Israelite
Church alterations
for 100th
anniversary**

Major alterations and improvements, which are estimated to cost about 9,000 pounds, are being made to the Christian Israelite Church property at Singleton.

The building committee of the church is working to have the task completed in time for the centenary of the establishment of the church at Singleton next year.

The Committee comprises Messrs John Knight (who is also the trustee of the Singleton Church), Hector Gould and Arthur Gould.

The first stage of the alterations was to remove the wooden building- the church hall, which had been attached to the brick church- to another site on the church's property. It now is on the High and Goulburn Street corner.

The removal was done by a Newcastle firm of contractors who carried out the removal of the Adaminaby township in the Snowy Mountains area.

The work of moving the hall was done with the minimum of bother, the building being removed on rollers and then raised to the height of four feet six inches

EARLIER MOVE

Years ago, when the present brick church was built, the old wooden building had been moved from another site on the same block. Then instead of the work being done by modern trucks "Dobbin" (one only) aided by block and tackle did the moving.

The building, the nucleus

of which was the original church in Singleton, and built about 70 years ago, will measure 62 feet by 42 feet when the extensions are completed.

The chimney has been rebuilt and the building will be completely repainted.

A feature of the rebuilding will be the use of steel roof supports which will allow the whole of the hall to be clear of internal supports.

The hall will be able to seat 200 persons comfortably.

Kitchen facilities will be improved as will other amenities.

Contractor for the church additions is Mr. Ron Simpson, and the man who is doing the brickwork is Mr. Joe Horne. Mr. Horne built the existing brick church 23 years ago, so it is fitting that he should be connected with the alterations.

Mr. Hector Gould said to-day that the church proper is at present 35 feet by 24 feet six inches.

Extensions planned will add 21 feet to the length while at the back another two rooms will be added.

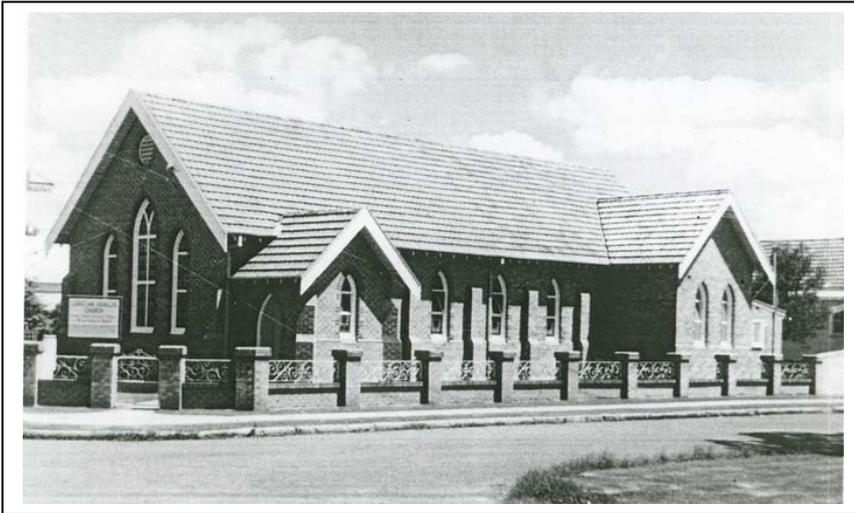
Seating accommodation will be increased by 80% to permit about 180 people to be accommodated.

Approximately 14 squares will be added to the floor space.



The hall, a wooden building, which had been attached to the church property. It was moved by a Newcastle firm of contractors, who carried out the removal with rollers and trucks. The pictures tell the story. The hall was raised to a height of 4 feet six inches, from ground level, and many changes were made.

16. ALTERATIONS TO CO-INCIDE WITH THE ANNIVERSARY

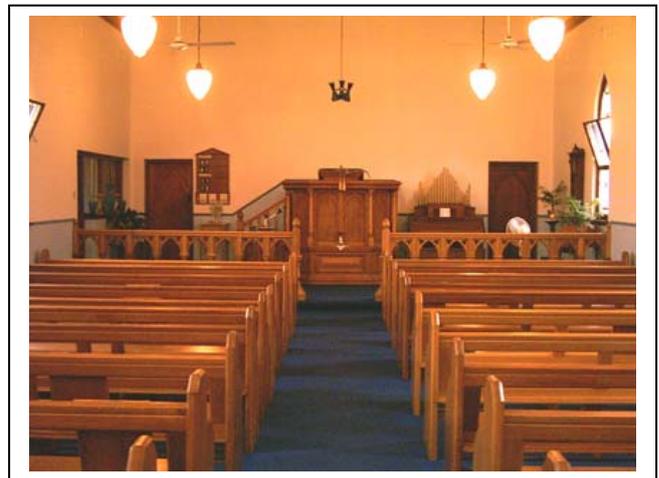


The photograph shows the hall area now returned as church area having been reduced in width to allow a pathway to proceed around the northern end of the church

In size the church space was increased by twenty one feet in length. Two rooms added to the rear of the church, extend right across the area once taken by the hall. They are separated by built-in cupboards and they open out on to a verandah, at each end of which are toilets.

The picture shows a doorway now entering the back of the church on the northern side, into the back room which had been extended.

The “Crying: room” (below) has been added to the southern side of the front portion of the church, and is separated from the main church room. From it a glass door gives entrance to the church and windows look into the church. It has an address system to allow people in the room to hear the service being conducted, and it is set up for mothers to attend to children who need care during the service.



Seating accommodation of the church was increased to allow about one hundred and eighty people to be seated and approximately fourteen squares were added to the floor space.

Below are photographs of the Western end of the Church after 1958 alterations.



THE HALL - AND ITS NEW FACE

Christian Israelite Buildings

Major alterations and improvements to the Christian Israelite Church and hall in Bishopgate and Goulburn Street at an estimated cost of 9,000 pounds have provided the congregation with amenities of which each and every member must feel proud.

Extensions have added 21 feet to the length of the church and a special "cry room" and two meeting rooms have been added to the building.

Seating accommodation has been increased by about 80% to allow about 180 people to be accommodated. Approximately 14 squares were added to the floor space.

The Church is brick, and wooden trims have been painted Chinese jade, glacier green and white, with a carnation red door.

The church ceiling has been painted shell pink, the walls white with soft blue and wedgewood blue trim.

The "cry Room" which has been added to the side of the church for mothers with babies is separated from the main church by soundproof glass. A public address system connected to the room allows people in it to hear the service being conducted in the church.

The room is painted in pastel colours, mist blue walls and shell pink ceiling with white trims. The meeting rooms, which are joined to the back of the church, are separated by built-in cupboards which form a wall.

One room is painted in French grey and pale blue, with white trim. The second meeting room has been painted tourquoise, with jasmine ceiling and white trim.

The hall and the church are joined by a cement path. After the shrubs and trees are planted around the grounds, the buildings and the property will be something that the Christian Israelite community of the town will feel proud.

This report was printed in the "SINGLETON ARGUS" in November 1958

The "new" church hall, the nucleus of which was the original church in Singleton measures 62 feet by 42 feet. The chimney has been rebuilt and the building repainted.

The outside walls of the hall are painted mist grey with Chinese jade and white trim and shell pink eaves.

The centre of the hall is painted jade green with a primrose ceiling and the walls of the two side panels are painted dove grey with primrose ceilings. The ladies' cloak room has green walls with a primrose ceiling; the men's is painted blue with a primrose ceiling.

The kitchen which is a new addition to the hall features built-in cupboards and an "island" sink unit connected with hot water. The sinks, built into shelves in the centre of the room which makes it accessible from all angles.

The walls of the kitchen are painted glacier green with white trim and the ceiling is flamingo. The cupboards are painted white and the doors glacier green.

The hall and the church are joined by a cement path.

After the shrubs and trees are planted around the grounds, the buildings and the property will be something that the Christian Israelite community of the town will feel proud.



View from High St



View from Goulburn St.



Southern side of the hall.

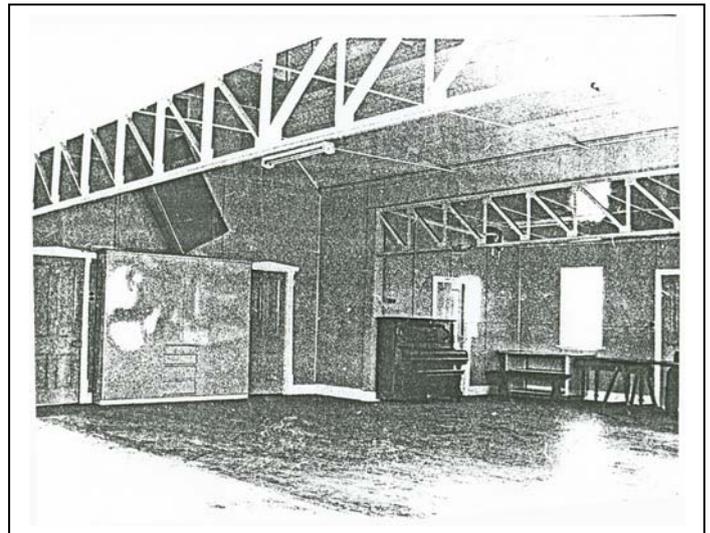
18. CHANGES TO THE HALL

The picture shows the inside of the hall.

The main feature of this re-building is the use of steel roof supports which allow the whole of the hall to be free of internal supports. There had been many changes within the frame of the hall while it stood at the back of the brick church.

Stage 1. The first had come in 1937 when a new room of size 16 ft by 12 ft was added to the western side of the hall. It had been built with a skillion roof and was entered from both the present kitchen and from the hall.

A luxury had been added when Edith Gray donated a sink for the kitchen use. She asked that it be set into the bench on the western wall three inches from the front of the bench and for water to be laid on to it. At this time Clarence Fellowes was contracted to set shelves as directed in the kitchen area.



Stage 2. The next alterations had been made in 1943 when plans were made to incorporate sewerage into the main hall. It was decided that entrances to the two toilets would be made from a landing extended from the kitchen, one each end of the landing. A door opened on to the landing from the kitchen.

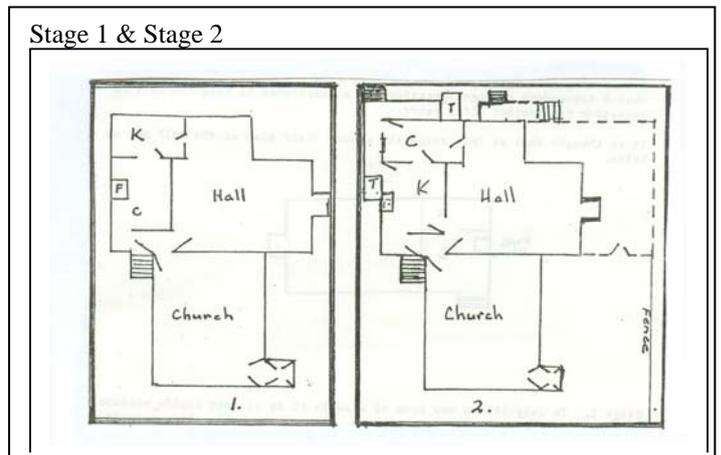
At the same time the space left in the kitchen was to be used as a cloak room and the room which had been the cloak room was to become the kitchen.

A servery was built into the wall between the hall and the kitchen and the back door of the present kitchen was moved to the end of the room at the rear of the church. A screen was erected in front of the door leading into the church from the hall and the kitchen area.

In 1945 more cupboards were added.

The floor plans right show the changes through stages one and two.

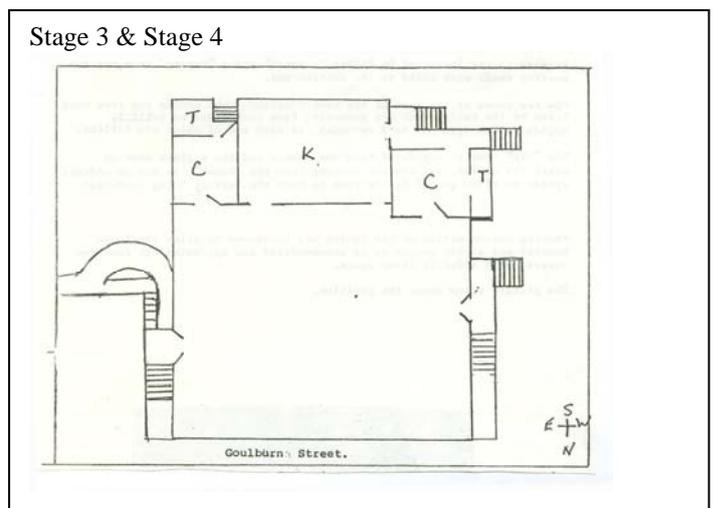
Stage 1 & Stage 2



Stage 3. This had changed the whole appearance of the hall. Now the entrance to the hall was made through the eastern wall from within the church grounds and the building extended right to the footpath of Goulburn Street.

Stage 4. In 1953 additions costing two hundred and fifty pounds included moving the southern wall of the kitchen area back to four feet from the boundary line, and the Fellowes boys rushed an improvement into the kitchen before Whitsuntide that year a slow combustion stove was added, and a larger sink.

Stage 3 & Stage 4



In 1982 the hall was clad.

In 1983 a ramp with a decorative grill in iron work was installed at the entrance of the hall.

19. THE CELEBRATIONS FOR THE ANNIVERSARY

11.8.58 Singleton Argus Reports (Abridged version)

Christian Israelite Centenary Observed

The Congregation of the Christian Israelite Church and a large number of visitors yesterday took part in a musical celebration to mark the completion of extensions to the church and hall.

It also marked the centenary of the establishment of the church in this district.

The service took the form of band recitals by the church band under the baton of M. Hector Gould; hymn singing by the church choir and the congregation.

The Service commenced with an organ solo by Allyn Knight who also accompanied the choir when it sang, in two parts, an oratorio, composed by Pastor David Knight.

The girls' quintette of Mrs Beryl Ricardo and Miss Dorothy Gould (altos), and Misses Catherine Gray, and Thelma Gould, and Mrs Margaret Gould (Sopranos) also sang two hymns.

The visitors were welcomed to the service by Mr. Clifton Gray

Pastor Gray gave the sermon based on Psalm 127.

The first records were put into the church registry book in 1857 when members joined from Cockfighter and at Wylies' Flat.

The first records in the Singleton Register were in 1858, 100 years this year.

Among the names recorded was that of David Gardiner, who through the following years proved to be a staunch member of the faith and preacher of the gospel. His latter life included church work in Sydney.

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Mr. Gray said that in recent years the trustees decided to purchase the allotment of ground adjoining the present church property in Goulburn Street, realising there was very little room for any further expansion on the present site.

Pastor tells of C.I. Church Progress over 100 years

An interesting talk on the progress over the past 100 years of the Christian Israelite Church was given by Pastor Norman Gray, in Singleton at the special Church service at the Christian Israelite Church last night.

MEMBERS OF THE PAST

In 1871 **Walter Gould**, son of the then **Charles Gould** signed as a member of the church at the age of 12.

Charles Gould was a devout Christian Israelite and a man of influence, both in the church and in the community of his day.

Until he decided to take a trip to England in 1901 he was busily engaged in the milling business with a Mr. King. This business is now known as Gould Bros Pty Ltd. Also remembered for their work in the church are the **Parker Family** of Maitland, and **Horace Gray** from Kempsey. Horace was a vigorous preacher and brought a family of staunch members to perpetuate the work of the church.

He was the father of Norman and Clifton Gray, and two daughters were well known music teachers in Kempsey, Beulah and Adah.

Both the sons became Singletonians, and contributed to the church

Walter owned a music shop in Kempsey and moved back to Singleton to become involved with Gould Bros timber Mill. He was a student and an interesting preacher. He composed band music and made a great contribution to the local band as his music is still used to-day. He chaired many important meetings until 1943.

Aaron Clarke and Job Bradbury were two men who performed important work for the betterment of the church. Aaron followed **Amos Gould**, holding office in the church, and Job well versed in the tenets of his faith and the scriptures, made a great contribution especially in Sunday School work. Amos assisted in building details and organisation, was father of Hector, who conducted the Brass Band for many years.

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Walter, **Ralph Gray** became a preacher in his twenties and found there was a great contribution he could make to the work of the church. He became a forceful and an inspiring speaker and was adapted to handling the young people of the church.

20. SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS

The hall served well for social activities and concerts but it did not cater for Sunday school needs. So, in July in 1965 plans were approved for an additional building of Sunday school rooms. Allen Gould contracted for this building for a value of about thirteen hundred pounds. Soon afterwards a printing room and a library were added. Aaron Clarke's house (the original Gould home) (below) was demolished to make way for the Sunday school rooms.



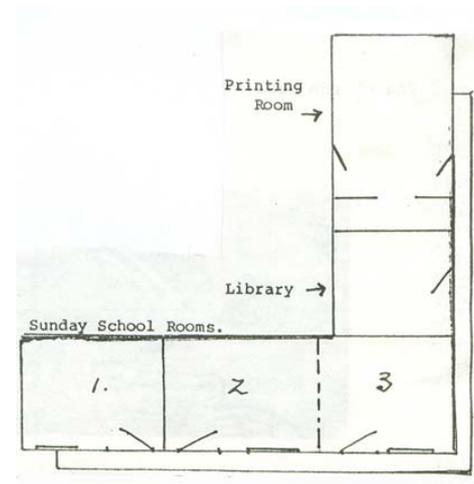
The photograph to the right above shows the Sunday school buildings looking from the west. Sketch below right shows the printing room and library.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES.

In the 1920's Sunday school classes were taken by Job Bradbury and Walter Gould Senior. The basic text for study was The Catechism for Children, and has remained the text for study, to-day. Classes were given on Sunday afternoons and in later years after church on Sunday mornings.

In the 1930's Jean Chatterton took the younger classes, and gradually Norman Gray took over the older children. When Ralph Gray came to Singleton there was a great impetus to the classes and in setting up of Discussion groups and getting the youth of the church into social activities.

During this time three sections were recognised and lessons prepared for each section. Audrey Harrison prepared a comprehensive set of lessons for kindergarten classes, and for pre school children. Ralph and Beryl set a programme for the Primary classes. Unfortunately Ralph did not see the programme completed. Paul Gray and a few others contributed some help in getting the four year syllabus printed. Bruce and Beryl arranged for an artist friend, father in law to Bert Webber to add the art work, and arranged for a professional printing of the books. These books have been available as a basis for study for the primary group for some time, and they are available for use by any enquiring students or families. Teachers make their own programme for instruction.



For some years Dorothy Crouch looked after the needs of the children. Helpers such as David Gray, Janice Burchell, and many others gave time on roster and filled the need here.

To-day Heather Knight is organising the Sunday school and she has made a delightful centre for the children, having play equipment and decorations in the special kindergarten room. These attract an interest there. Heather has made her own programmes and at present parents of the children are rostered to administer the lessons for the children

Study of the Catechism has been extended with notes by Paul Gray and Audrey Harrison and these have been used for senior study. Some kind of study has taken place of a Sunday ever since the forties. Papers have been prepared by Paul Gray, Rodney Gray, Stanley Gould and many others, and to-day anyone can make a contribution to the programme of discussions.

Each year the children are trained to entertain the congregation at Whitsuntide and time is set aside to have the children present their programme. The Sunday school picnic has always provided a fun day with a picnic and games for children, the youth and adults. At these picnics the girls learned to change car tyres, and the boys competed in cake making competitions. For many years there was a Christmas celebration, and often a concert or play presented by the children. Ginger beer and icecream have been the traditional feast at this time.

21. THE PRINTING DEPARTMENT

Church newsletters have always been printed in this department.

The earliest methods were typing the letters, and then duplicating them on a gestetner machine. At first these were hand turned, and then later electrically operated. If anyone remembers this method they will recall that this was a very tedious task, as firstly one had to avoid contact with ink and try and stop it getting on the sheets which were being printed. The second tedium was the storage of the sheets which had been used. This way of copying continued for some time, and it wasn't until the nineties that the method we now use came into being.

This is photocopying. In this system the page is placed in the holder and a button pressed to work the printer. Each page had to be set up and printed individually. If there needed to be more than one copy of the page the process was repeated. Page two would then be done, and so on

Over the years this system became easier to manipulate, and having the photocopying was a clean method of reprinting.

Just recently we have acquired a printer which automatically prints a whole book of loose leaves. It prints page one, then page two and continues as requested. When the printing is completed the copier machine has the book collated and all we have to do is to present it. If any number of books is required we make a request on the machine and that is what we get.



Stanley Gould has been the operator of this section of our organisation and we must thank him for his patience in handling the machines. It is Stanley who cleans them up, fixes any of the problems, and if he cannot fix them, he arranges for the company to have the machine serviced.

Stanley is a patient and loyal worker and he patiently explains to people exactly how to operate the machine. Thank you for your supervision and your contribution to our printing service.

View of the Library and Printing Room taken from North West 2003



Nancy Gray has been the secretary for typing and printing of all kinds of church literature. She is able to produce invitations, notices, the news letters, and programmes for all occasions and minutes of all meetings and she faithfully posts or Emails these to members. Members are deeply indebted to her for the work she does so happily and efficiently. Thank you, Nancy, for your contribution.

Eastern View of the Library and Printing Room from the East 2005