



DESIGN NARRATIVES *in* / GAWLER

STAINED GLASS DESIGNS

Gawler's Historic Buildings

Stained glass has a thousand year history and has been applied almost exclusively to the windows of churches and other significant buildings throughout the world. Stained glass making requires artistic skill and flair to conceive a design and engineering skill to assemble the design.

CHURCH HILL

The artistry of stained glass is featured in many of Gawler's historic buildings. On a lovely summer evening, walk the streetscapes of the Church Hill State Heritage Area, and whilst the lights are on in the churches and villas take time to be enthralled at the magnificent colour and design shining through the windows.

The signature of E.F. Troy appears on the main sanctuary window in St George's Anglican Church. The contract price for this window was £200. Fine examples of window design by contemporary artisans Cedar Prest, Vaughn Taylor and Lindy Sando are also displayed here. The Sanctuary windows in Saint Peter and Saint Paul Catholic Church are also signed by Troy. Not all studios signed their windows, unfortunately, so the history of some windows is untraceable.

Invariably, they feature European scenes painted on clear glass with enamel paint. Simple door surrounds which feature birds painted on medallions are quite common.

GAWLER CHURCHES

The churches contain some of the earliest examples of stained glass made in South Australia. The oldest windows are found in St. George's Anglican Church and date from 1864. The "Gawler Window", showing Governor Gawler's crest was designed and made by the Brooks studio. It reminds us that Gawler was a war hero, leading an infantry charge for the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo.

GAWLER'S BUILDINGS

From the early 1900s, it was considered not as necessary for South Australians to send to other colonies, or overseas, for glass work to be designed and made. Door surrounds of many Victorian villas and businesses in Gawler feature elaborately painted scenes on stair landings and in doors and fan lights.

GAWLER DESIGN STORIES ARE ALL AROUND US....

Colour does not add a pleasant quality to design - it reinforces it.

Pierre Bonnard

RELATED DESIGNS, GAWLER

- St. George's Anglican Church, Orleana Square. Cowan St.
- Saint Peter & Saint Paul Catholic Church, Parnell Square. Porter

FURTHER INFORMATION

- gawler.nowandthen.net.au
- Donovan, P. *A guide to stained glass windows in & about Adelaide*. Adelaide, D.A.H.H.P.C., 1983.