

BUILDING TITLE ST PATRICKS CATHEDRAL
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF BALLAARAT

NATIONAL ESTATE PROJECT No.
DOCUMENTATION OF LISTED HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN VICTORIA

DESIGNATION H.B.P.C. REGISTER No. NATIONAL TRUST (C) (X) FILE N

BUILDING TYPE CATHEDRAL
BUILDING NAME ST PATRICKS CATHEDRAL
STATE VICTORIA
LOCAL GOVT AREA CITY OF BALLAARAT
STREET STURT (CNR DAWSON) NO.
SUBURB/TOWN BALLARAT
CITY BALLAARAT POSTCODE 3350
RURAL
NEAREST CENTRE Km.

TITLE REFERENCE Vol Fol
DIRECTORY
NEGATIVE FILE FILM 6 / FRAME 1



PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION
DATE OF SURVEY/INSPECTION JULY 1978

OWNERSHIP ORIGINAL ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
PRESENT ROMAN CATHOLIC TRUSTS CORP.
ADDRESS 3 LYONS ST. STH BALLARAT

ARCHITECT/PRACTICE NAVE AND SIDE AISLE - SHAW & DOWDEN : J.B.DENNY
BUILDER JOHN CUMMINS.
ARTISANS/TRADES MASONRY - MR STOMBUCCO

TENDERS ADVERTISED 4 NOVEMBER 1857. REFERENCE
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION COMMENCED 1857; OPENED 9 NOVEMBER 1863
ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE
ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS 1891 - REED, SMART AND TAPPIN - INTERIOR DECORATION

BUILDING CITATION

Construction of the Cathedral began in 1857 to a design, allegedly by the English architects the Hansom brothers, modified and supervised by the architects Shaw & Dowden. Building halted many times and by 1863 when the nave and side aisles were opened the local architect J.B.Denny (a protegee of Pugin) had taken over the work. In 1870 the transepts, side chapels, chancel and sacristy were completed, and in 1891 Reed, Smart & Tappin designed furnishings. Although of a conventional basilican cross section and cruciform and conventional materials - bluestone with freestone dressings, the building is notable for its fine detailing and intactness. The influence of Pugin is reflected in the tracery of the windows, mouldings and openings. The bluestone nave arcade and scissor beam roof structure are also of note. The fence and entrance gates of cast iron are important for their unusual and elaborate design and extent. The building is of statewide importance for its associations, Pugin inspired detail and intactness. It forms part of an intact Cathedral complex that has no parallels in Victoria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this building be added to the Historic Buildings Register of the Register of the National Estate, and be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule). It is recommended for inclusion on the Historic Buildings Register as it forms part of an important complex of buildings with the hall and Presbytery.

DOCUMENTATION SOURCES

- 01 GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 02 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 03 ARCHIVES/CATALOGUES
- 04 ARCHITECTS INDEX
- 05 ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS/ILLUSTRATIONS
- 06 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS
- 07 NATIONAL TRUST FILE/ HISTORIC BUILDINGS PRESERVATION COUNCIL FILE
- 08 PRIVATE RECORDS

04 BALLARAT STAR 9 NOVEMBER 1863

AUSTRALASIAN BUILDERS CONTRACTORS NEWS 13 JUNE 1891

BUILDING TIMES 12 NOVEMBER 1869.

ARGUS 13 APRIL 1869.

05. YELDON COLLECTION: 1910 DRAWINGS FOR FURNITURE
CLEGG AND MORROW, ARCHITECTS.

BALLARAT ILLUSTRATED. INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPH P.55.
EXTERIOR PHOTOGRAPH P.39.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. BALLARAT STAR 4 NOVEMBER 1857 TENDERS CALLED
12 DECEMBER 1857 WORK COMMENCED
8 FEBRUARY 1858 FOUNDATION STONE LAID
11 MARCH 1858 FREESTONE CONDEMNED
28 APRIL 1858 WORK RESUMED
4 MARCH 1861 PILLARS ERECTED
1 JANUARY 1861 WORK RESUMED
9 NOVEMBER 1863 OPENING CELEBRATIONS.
2. SPIELVOGEL PAPERS, HELD BALLARAT REGIONAL LIBRARY P.52
3. WITHERS, HISTORY OF BALLARAT, BALLARAT, 1887 P.267.

ASSESSMENT OF LISTING

CONDITION/INTEGRITY OF BUILDING SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT

SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDING

LANDSCAPE/STREETSCAPE/ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE PART OF RECOMMENDED
AREA A1.3.

DOCUMENTATION JACOBS LEWIS VINES DATE SEPTEMBER 1978

ST.PATRICKS CATHEDRAL, CNR. STURT AND DAWSON STREETS
BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

Tenders were called for the Cathedral on 4 November 1857¹ and work commenced in December of that year.² The design is believed to be a scaled down version of a proposal for St.Patricks Cathedral Melbourne by the English architects the Hansom brothers. The architects for this stage were Shaw & Dowden.³ On 4 February 1858 Bishop Gould laid the foundation stone of the nave and side aisle.⁴ During 1858 the freestone was condemned and work stopped. Work on the building continued intermittently over the next five years; the columns being erected in 1861. At some time prior to 1863 J.B.Denny, a local architect who had worked on the staff of Pugin and superintended work at St.Patricks Cathedral Melbourne, took over as architect. The nave and side aisles were opened on 8 November 1863. The opening ceremony was reported by the *Ballarat Star* the following day.

*"St.Patricks opened on Sunday November 8 1863. The building was commenced two - three years ago; one of the causes of the delay was the alterations of the original design and change in some materials used. Alterations and superintendence by Mr.J.B.Denny, one of the staff of the late Mr.Pugin.....The building is of bluestone with freestone mullions and tracery, the style of architecture is decorated Gothic of the time of Edward the First. The windows are filled with geometric tracery with amber tinted glass. The centre aisle is paved with Mintons encaustic tiles. The principal portions of the masonry were under contract of Mr.Stombuco. Completion of the church has been effected by Mr.John Cummins; the ornamentation of the altar was executed by Mr.Whithy, staining and varnishing by Mr.Robson."*⁵

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1. *Ballarat Star* 4 November 1857.
 2. *Ballarat Star* 12 December 1857.
 3. Withers, *History of Ballarat* p.267.
 4. loc. cit.
 5. *Ballarat Times* 12 November 1869.

ST.PATRICKS CATHEDRAL, CNR. STURT AND DAWSON STREETS (contd.)

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

The nave and aisles cost £12,000; the after contracts amounted to a larger sum, and £1,500 was spent on the iron fence around the reserve.⁶

In 1869 Denny called tenders for completion of St.Patricks,⁷ this work included the transepts, side chapels, chancel and sacristy.⁸ In November 1869 the *Building Times* reported on the building's progress. "Rev. Dean Moore has resolved to complete the entire church - the work is now in hand and far advanced in the transepts, chancel, side chapels and sacristies. The materials are bluestone walls with Kangaroo Point freestone dressings with the roof principals of oregon, stained and varnished. £1,000 to be spent on stained glass with a total cost of £75,000."⁹ Further tenders were called by Denny for the building's completion in November 1870.¹⁰

In 1891 Reed Smart and Tappin called tenders for decoration of the interior,¹¹ and in 1910 Clegg and Miller produced drawings for furniture.¹²

This is a church in the thirteenth century decorated Gothic style, allegedly designed in England by the Hansom brothers to be the Melbourne Cathedral, but reduced in size for the present site. It is of conventional basilican cross-section and cruciform plan, with an internal width of 19 metres, a nave length of 32 metres, and transepts 30 metres across. The walls are of bluestone and the dressings of Kangaroo Point freestone from Tasmania. A three light lancet window gives into each of the five bays along the length of the nave and two of the chancel, and at clerestory level a corresponding three lancet window, while there is a great five light window at the liturgical east end. The local architect J.B.Denny was a former protege of Pugin, and this is reflected in the care which has been taken to vary the details of the window tracery, mouldings and openings.

6. Withers, p.267.

7. *Argus* 13 April 1869.

8. Withers, p.267.

9. *Building Times* 12 November 1869.

10. *Argus* 28.11.1870.

11. *Australasian Builders and Contractors News* 13.6.1891.

12. Vernon Collection.

ST. PATRICKS CATHEDRAL, CNR. STURT AND DAWSON STREETS (contd.)

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

Flanking the main entrance are two niches, apparently designed for statues, each with a sort of Gothic half domed canopy top, with a pair of pinnacles and a gable terminating in a crocket, all set against the wall face. The label moulds of the west door and windows terminate in heads of bishops, kings and one nun.

Internally there is a gallery at the entrance and extending the width of the nave only and carried on slim columns. The nave arcade consists of broad bluestone arches carried on octagonal bluestone piers, and opens out in a broader arch where it gives onto the transept, reducing again in the two bays of the chancel where it gives onto side chapels. The clerestory wall above is plastered and painted as ashlar masonry, but there is a horizontal stringcourse above the arcade, and above each arch springing is a bluestone corbel carrying a length of bluestone shaft, which then continues in timber to the base of the roof principals. These are oregon scissor beam trusses carrying a stained and varnished timber ceiling over the nave, while over the chancel the complete panelling of the ceiling follows a cusped or hammer beam profile. Under the rear gallery a timber panelled entrance lobby has been formed, with leadlighted glazing of a post-art nouveau character.

The whole building is particularly intact other than the usual alterations to the altar to suit the new form of worship. Externally the elaborate iron palisade fence which runs around the entire St. Patricks complex emphasises this intactness. This is quite remarkable for its length and design. It is cast in large panels that are cusp-headed with small quatrefoils at top and bottom. There are open work gate posts which are also repeated at corners and changes in level. These are mostly square, although they are octagonal and larger.

There are open work piers which also serve as gate posts. These are octagonal for the inner posts of the main entrance and at street corners and square piers at lesser gates and other intervals along the fence often at a change of level. The octagonal posts rise to an open work dome or crowned top with crockets.

ST.PATRICKS CETHEDRAL, CNR. STURT AND DAWSON STREETS (contd.)

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

Although a conventional enough building, its importance really lies in its somewhat clouded history - whether or not it was designed by the Hansom brothers - but certainly because of the association with Pugin, through Denny, which is reflected in detailing. . The intactness of the building is also important.

The building is important on a statewide basis, not only for these associations and its intactness, but also as forming part of an intact Cathedral complex with all building of a high standard.

The group form a significant part of an important environmental area.