

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 5

Richard Peterson Architect & Conservation Consultant. Daniel Catrice Historian 1994.

NAME: St George's Balliang, Anglican Church.

PREVIOUS NAME: St George's Church of England.

ADDRESS: Balliang Road, Balliang.

TITLE DETAILS:

USE: Church.

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1912

SOURCE: 3

DESIGNER: Frank Lee

SOURCE: 3

CRITERIA: H1,2; S01, 2

HISTORIC THEME: Townships, Community Life

DESCRIPTION: **STYLE:** Early English Gothic. **STORIES:** 1 **DETACHED.**

MATERIALS: **WALLS** Timber **ROOF** Iron **STRUCTURE** Stud.

CONDITION: Excellent

INTACTNESS: Good

THREATS:

SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:

MATERIALS. FORM. FACADE. VERANDAH. ROOF FORM. USE.

WINDOWS.

INTERIORS.

SIGNIFICANCE:

TYPE: HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL.

LEVEL: LOCAL.

DESIGNATION EXISTING: Nil.

RECOMMENDED CONTROL:

PLANNING SCHEME.

MAP NO: R1.07 **SURVEY:** RP **DATE:** 19.12.1993 **NEGS:** 1.4 & 5/1010.35 & 36



HISTORY: The township of Staughton Vale (later Balliang), comprising eight allotments of one acre (0.4ha), a seven acre (2.8ha) recreation reserve, and a school reserve of three acres (1.2ha), was gazetted on April 29, 1908.¹ The Church of England acquired one of these township allotments in March 1910.² The church was erected in 1912 to the design of Frank Lee (ref: 3), a local farmer. Described as a 'humble wooden church', the building received favourable attention in the *Bacchus Marsh Express*:

Gothic pointed windows and Gothic filling to its four gables, give it a decidedly ecclesiastical appearance, and the outside walls being painted a dark blue, with white trimmings, have a solid appearance. Inside it is lined with narrow boarding, with a dado of Indian red, the upper half a terra cotta, and the ceiling varnished the wood's natural colour. Two principals, with heavy brackets, showing below ceiling, are stained oak, and varnished.³

St George's Church of England was dedicated by Archbishop Clarke in July 1912.

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: St George's Anglican Church, Balliang is an Early English Gothic timber church, with three bays to the nave and liturgically correct orientation. There is a 10-pane lancet window and a gablet roof vent to each bay. The east end has an incised semi-circular half round decoration over a jerkin-head roofed narthex and porches each side, with balustrades. Vestries form transepts, with a leadlight window in the chancel, north side. Rafters are exposed. Inside, two steps rise at the chancel which has a pseudo-four centred arch. Timber pews have cast-iron frames. The roof trusses are exposed, with a semi-circular pattern similar to the gable-ends.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: Ten churches have been identified in the Study. Of these, most (six) are Early English: this is the only freestanding timber Church.

SIGNIFICANCE: An Early English Gothic Anglican timber church designed by Frank Lee and built in Balliang (formerly Staughton Vale) township in 1912.

It is of local historical significance in embodying Balliang and its way of life, the aspirations of its residents and the religious development of its country life. Socially significant as central to the identity of Balliang, as a traditional meeting place and community focus.

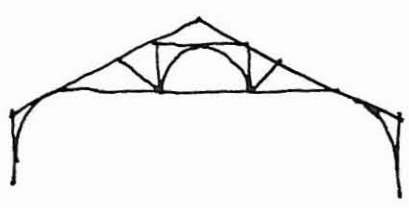
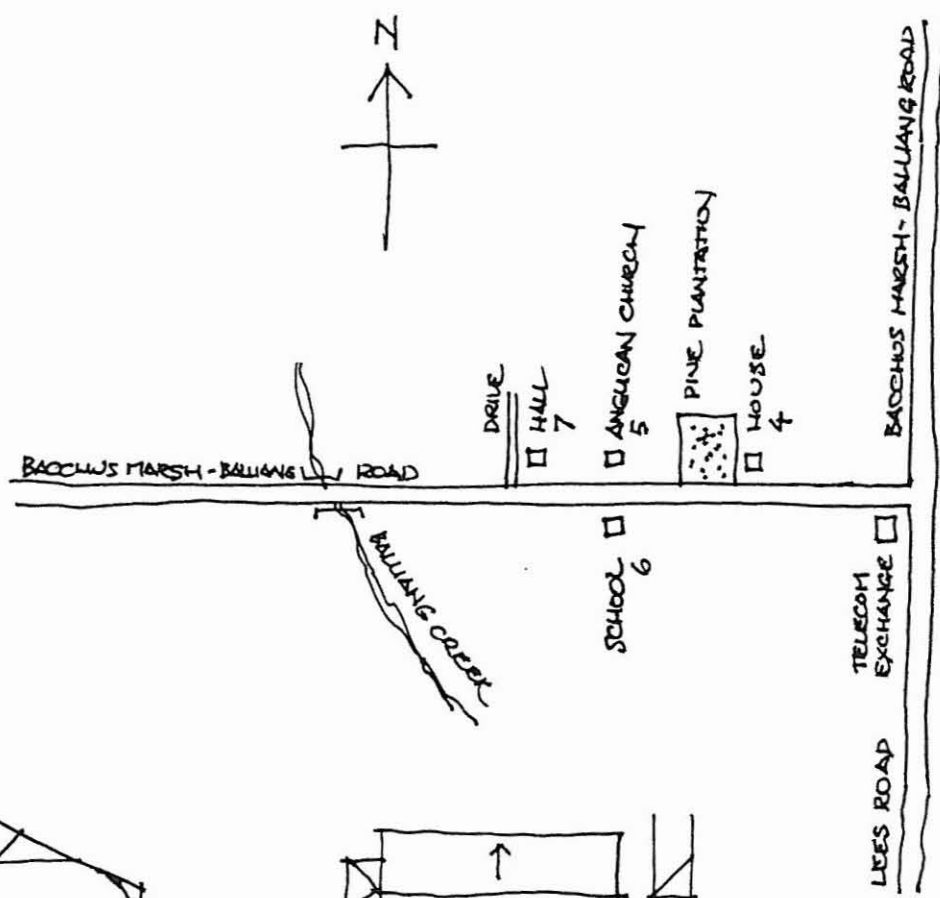
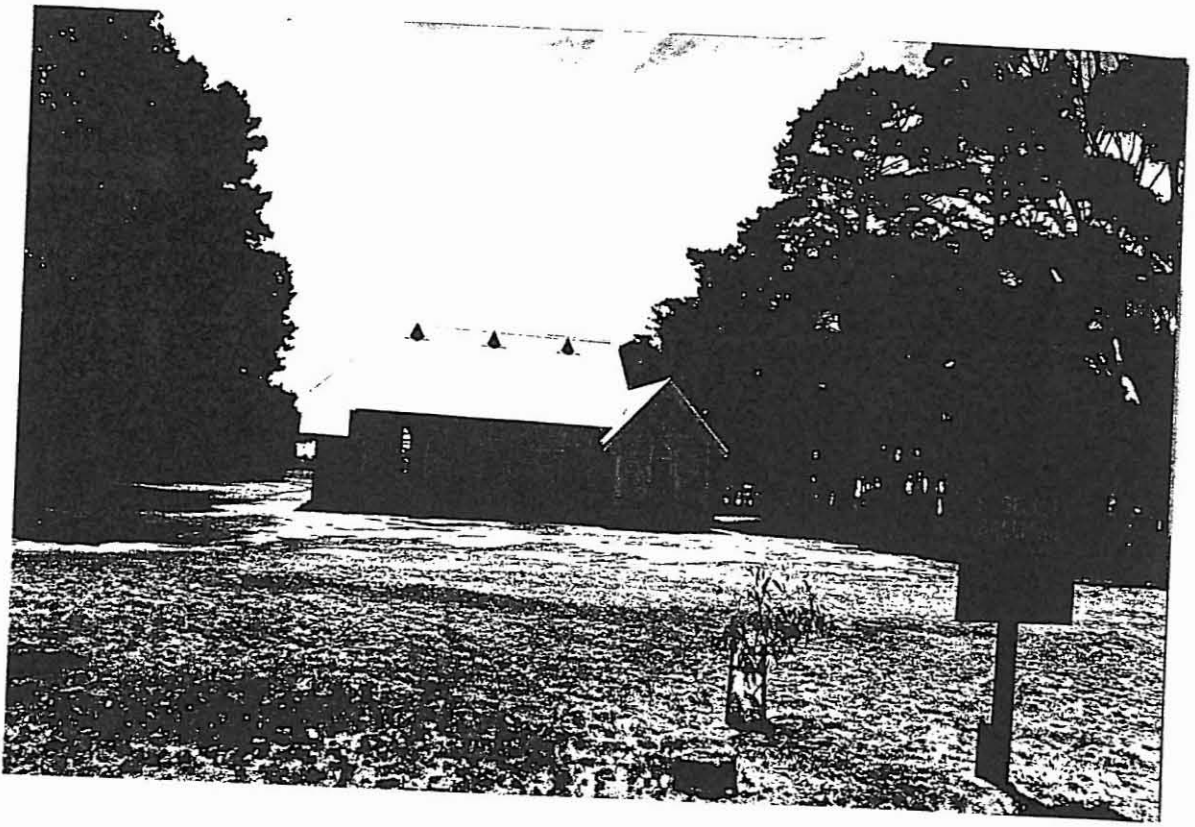
INTACTNESS: Excellent. Ogee spouting has been removed.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Excellent, despite the lack of spouting.

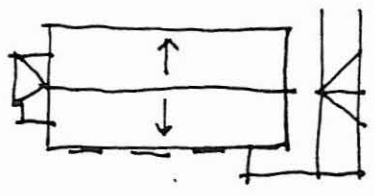
¹ Victoria, *Government Gazette* 1908, p.2580; *Back to Balliang, September 1958*, Official Souvenir.

² Department of Crown Lands and Survey. Township Plan B 27.4 (CPO).

³ *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 13 July, 1912.



ROOF TRUSS



ANGELICAN CHURCH . PLAN