

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 100

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

NAME: Webster Brothers yard & former "The Iron Church"**PREVIOUS NAME:** - & Church of England. Bacchus Marsh.**ADDRESS:** 14 Graham Street.**TITLE DETAILS:****USE:** House & outbuilding.**PREVIOUS USE:** House and Church.**SIGNIFICANT DATE:** Church: 1855-77 **CONSTRUCTION DATE:** House: 1870;
Church: 1855. **SOURCE:** 1 & 2.**BUILDER:** Church: William Anderson. **SOURCE:** 3**CRITERIA:** House: H1, 6; Ar3/ Church: H2,5,6; Ar1,3.**HISTORIC THEME:** House: Township/ Church: Community Life & Conserving.**DESCRIPTION:** **STYLE:** Early **STORIES:** 1 **DETACHED.****MATERIALS:** **WALLS** House: Brick & stone. Church: Iron **ROOF** Iron**STRUCTURE:** House: Lb; Church: frame**CONDITION:** House: Reasonable Church: Poor.**INTACTNESS:** House: Good. Church: Poor **THREATS:** (Road realignment)**SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:**

FACADE. VERANDAH.

ROOF DECORATION. VERANDAH DECORATION.

CHIMNEYS. WALL DECORATION.

OUTBUILDINGS.

SIGNIFICANCE:**TYPE:** HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL.**LEVEL:** STATE.**DESIGNATION EXISTING:** Nil**RECOMMENDED CONTROL/NOMINATION:** HBR. RNE. PLANNING SCHEME.
AREA 1.**MAP NO:** U4.07 **SURVEY:** DC & RP **DATE:** 7.1.94 & 15.4.94**NEGS:** 8.14; 31. 8-10.

HISTORY: This brick and stone house was erected (without verandah) in 1872 for George Marshall.¹ The land was offered for sale as a township allotment, at the Border Inn [ref. 153] on February 22, 1870.²

Behind the house is a remnant of the pre-fabricated Iron Church, erected for the Church of England in 1855. Opened on July 4 by the Dean of Melbourne, H.B. Macartney, the brick-lined church (47' 6" x 28' 6") (14.5 x 8.7m) was described as "a commodious [building] capable of holding 150 or 200 persons."³ The contractor was William Anderson.⁴

Strong winds razed the tower and spire in the 1870s. The church was not repaired, for a burgeoning congregation required a more fitting place of worship. In 1879, Holy Trinity Church of England [ref. 196] was officially opened by Bishop Moorhouse. The last Sunday service in the Iron Church took place on May 27, 1877. The pre-fabricated building was then purchased by Messrs. Marshall and Reid and in July 1877, was removed to this site,⁵ known as Webster Brothers yard.

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: Red brick (tuckpointed at the front), double-fronted symmetrical early house with a gabled roof across, terminating at a chimney at each end of the ridge. There are decorative scalloped bargeboards. It has stone quoins at the corners and a low, concave hip timber verandah with a cast-iron lace valance and brackets. There is a diamond shaped quarry tile pavement to the verandah and threshold and cills are stone. The four-panel door and knob survive. The verandah retains its end decorative valance, to the right. There is a skillion addition at the rear. There is a gable-roofed timber outbuilding (the former kitchen?) with two substantial chimneys.

On the rear boundary, now used as an outbuilding, is the surviving fabric of the former "Iron Church". This has a gabled roof and had four pointed windows at sides. It is all clad in corrugated iron. Access was not possible, but a 1977 photograph shows Gothic tracery in a window. It measures 14 X 8.5 metres.⁶

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: 1. House. There are 16 early houses surviving in the Shire.

2. "Iron Church". This is the remnant of the earliest surviving church in Bacchus Marsh. It is also a remnant of the only known surviving pre-fabricated church in Victoria.

SIGNIFICANCE: A brick and stone relatively intact early cottage, built in 1870, with an outbuilding.

¹ Shire of Bacchus Marsh, Rate Book, 1872-73.

² 'Sale of Property in the Township of Bacchus Marsh', Map Collection, BMDHS.

³ Cited in Osborne, *A History of Holy Trinity Church of England*, p.10.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ National Trust File No 5638. Churches Analysis Data Sheet. Marie Moore.

Behind it also are remnants of the former prefabricated "Iron Church" (1855), Bacchus Marsh's first Church of England building, used between 1855 and 1877, when it was deconsecrated and relocated here. It is the only known surviving prefabricated iron church in Victoria and the earliest surviving church in Bacchus Marsh.

The former "Iron Church" is of state historical significance as an extraordinary and pioneering embodiment of a way of life in its religious practice in the earliest years of the Colony and of the settlement at Bacchus Marsh. It is of state architectural significance as a rare survival of this building type and technology. It also offers evidence of changing attitudes to conservation practice.

The cottage is of local historical significance as a representative embodiment of a way of life in early Bacchus Marsh.

It is of local architectural significance as an early example of a town cottage in Bacchus Marsh, retaining its outbuilding and site land.

INTACTNESS:

1. *House*. Good. The walls have been painted, except below the verandah. The bargeboards may be replacement (copies?).
2. *"Iron Church"*. Poor. Lacks tower and spire, and probably all but one window. Closer inspection is necessary.

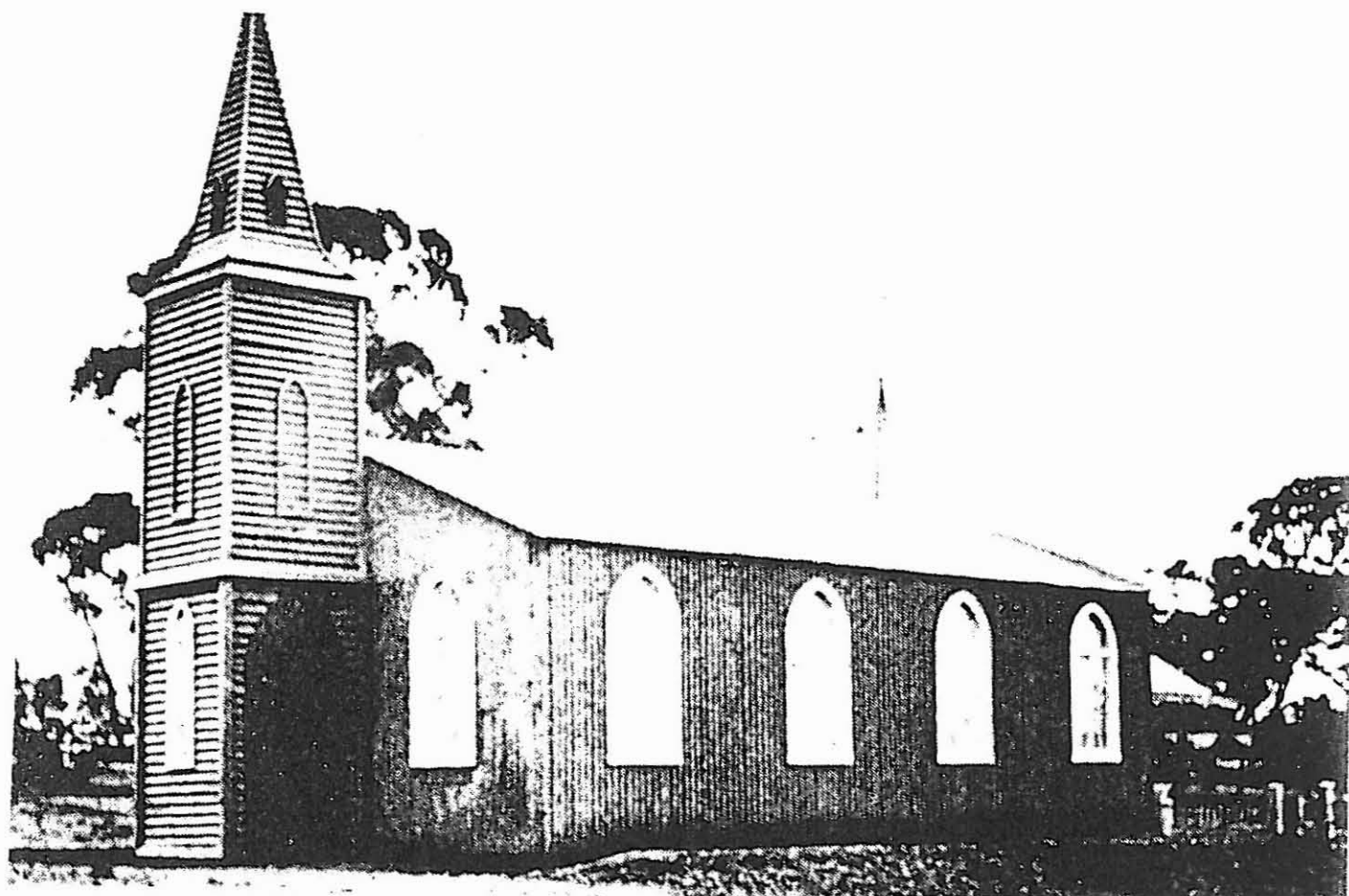
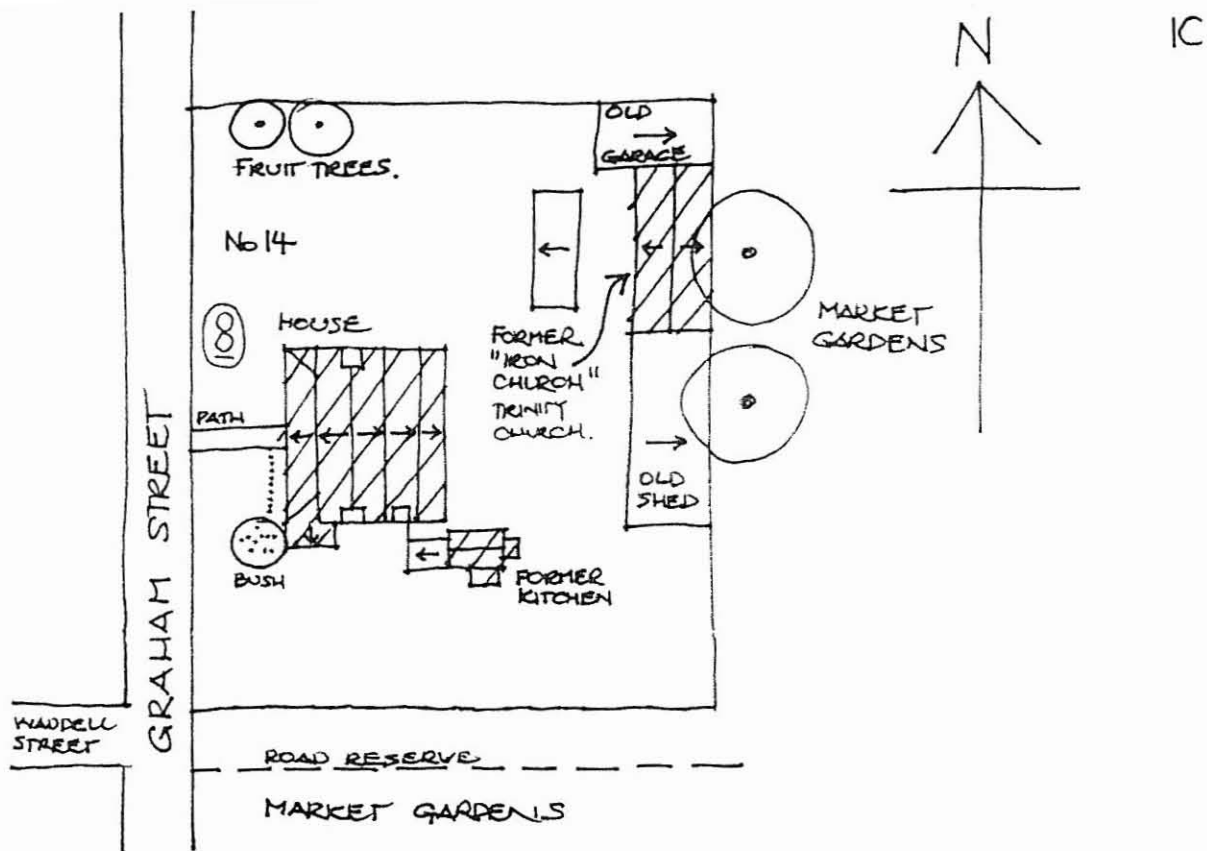
CONDITIONS & THREATS:

1. *House*. Reasonable. Verandah needs repair. Road widening should not affect it.⁶
2. *"Iron Church"*. Poor. The owner is very elderly and lives in the Nursing Home.⁷

⁶ Ron Mildren, phone conversation with RP.

⁷ Letter, Jean Lycette to Richard Peterson, 20 April 1994.





OPENING DAY. JULY 1855
 TRINITY CHURCH.
 MOORE & COOKES, P.31.