

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 195

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

NAME: Uniting Church of Australia St. Andrew's Bacchus Marsh.

PREVIOUS NAME: St Andrews Presbyterian Church.

ADDRESS: Gisborne Road (SE cnr Lerderderg Street).

TITLE DETAILS:

USE: Church.

CONSTRUCTION DATE: Church: 1865; Parish hall: 1912; Vestry: 1935

SOURCE: 1

DESIGNER: J. F. Matthews; Hall: Cornelius L. T. van Alkemade

BUILDER: J. Cuthbertson & William Watson.

SOURCE: 1-4

CRITERIA: H2; So1,3/ H2; So1,2; Ar 3.

HISTORIC THEME: Community life/ Townships.

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

MATERIALS: **WALLS** Stone **ROOF** Slate **STRUCTURE** Lb & trusses.

CONDITION: Very good.

INTACTNESS: Excellent. Parish centre exterior good; interior: Poor; Manse: now demolished. **THREATS:** -

SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:

MATERIALS. **FORM.** **FACADE.** **ROOF FORM.** **PLAN/LAYOUT.** **USE.**

EAVES DECORATION. **ROOF DECORATION.**

WALL DECORATION. **DOORS.** **WINDOWS.** **PAINTWORK SCHEME.** Internal

UNPAINTED FINISH. **INTERIORS.** **OUTBUILDINGS.**

STREET FURNITURE. **WALLS.** bluestone

SIGNIFICANCE:

TYPE: HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. SOCIAL.

LEVEL: LOCAL.

DESIGNATION EXISTING: Nil.

RECOMMENDED CONTROL: PLANNING SCHEME. AREA 1.

MAP NO: U4.07 **SURVEY:** RP **DATE:** 29.1.94

NEGS: 15.22-27A, 16.2-5 & 13 - 1021



HISTORY: St Andrew's Presbyterian Church was officially opened in December 1865.¹ Designed by J.F. Matthews, the church was built of bluestone and sandstone by J. Cuthbertson and William Watson, assisted by R. Wightman, stonemason of Coimadai. John Felix Matthews was a prolific designer of mainly houses and commercial buildings in Melbourne between 1852 and 1873.² Early church services had been held in James Young's flour mill, and from 1853, in a stone church facing Main Street.³

The foundation stone of St Andrew's Parish Centre (Hall) was laid on 6 March 1912 by Dr W.H. McFarlane. The hall is to the design of Cornelius L.T. van Alkemade. The bricks were donated by the builder, J.G. Wells. Between February 1921 and July 1923, the hall was used as classrooms for the Bacchus Marsh High School. An addition to the rear of the building was erected as a memorial to those who served during the Second World War. The vestry, (timber hall) a church relocated from North Melbourne, was erected in 1935.⁴

In 1977, much of the Presbyterian Church merged with the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Congregational Church to form the Uniting Church of Australia.

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: *Church exterior:* An Early English Gothic church in bluestone with sandstone dressings. It has 5 bays and is gable roofed parallel to Gisborne Road. It has quoins and a lancet window between buttresses to each bay with three lancets to the west end. There are two parallel gable-roofed vestries at the east end. The porch (tower) is in the front north bay. This reduces with a stop chamfer to an octagon in the first storey, with coved mould and oculus vents. The second storey has lancet vents and cornice mould and the tower terminates in a candle-snuffer spire with a wrought-iron finial. The roof has gable vents, there is a billet frieze and oddly stepped gable parapets. There is a bluestone ashlar boundary fence and the footpath has precast concrete diamond pavers.

Interior: The 5 bays have a coved ceiling, delicate painted cornice and coffering, possibly with its various original paint colours: yellow ochre, light green, gold and off-white. The 10 nave lancets have stained glass or leadlight windows, dated from 1922 to 1943. The west lancets may be nineteenth century.

Parish centre. A red brick Early English Gothic hall with a gable roof facing Gisborne Road. The 5 bays have flat head windows over a flat dado. It has tuck-pointed brick with roughcast cement quoins and an odd crowstep frieze beneath the gables. This has wavy decorated barges, finial, oculus vent and a horizontal band at cornice level. There is a central pointed door and a horizontal band at cornice level. There is a central pointed door flanked by lancets. All have quoins. There is a foundation stone.

¹ Moore and Oomes, *Bacchus Marsh: A Pictorial Chronicle*, p.19.

² Miles Lewis, *Architectural Survey. Final Report*, Department of Architecture and Building, University of Melbourne, 1977, lists 119 works over this period.

³ *Ibid*, p.14 & 30.

⁴ Personal communication with Gwyn Moore, BMDHS.

Vestry. A three-bay hall parallel to Gisborne Road. There is a leadlight lancet to each bay, and a gabled porch. This has a decorated Gothic window of three lancets, with leadlight windows (not accessible).

Manse: Californian Bungalow with roughcast walls and quoins.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: There are ten churches in the Shire, including five of the nineteenth century. Of these, seven are Early English and three (Roman Catholic) are Decorated. This is one of the three larger churches.

SIGNIFICANCE: St Andrew's Uniting is an Early English Gothic stone church, with a tower, and spire and intact internal decoration designed by J. F. Matthews and opened in 1865 as Presbyterian. There are two other Early English buildings: a brick Parish Centre (Hall, 1912) and a vestry (hall, 1935). A manse was demolished during the course of the Study.

The church is of local historical significance for its association with religious development of the community life of Bacchus Marsh. It is of local social significance as known and valued by the community as part of the sense of identity of the place and a traditional community and visitor focus and meeting place. It is of architectural significance to the local community as an intact example of the Early English Gothic style and the earliest consecrated church in Bacchus Marsh.

INTACTNESS: *Church:* Excellent. *Parish Centre:* Externally: Good; Internally: Poor, (The interior is partitioned with a false ceiling). *Manse:* now demolished.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: All, very good.

GISBORNE ROAD.

