

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.**Ref:** 196

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

NAME: Holy Trinity Anglican Church.**PREVIOUS NAME:** Holy Trinity Church of England.**ADDRESS:** Gisborne Road (SW cnr Lerderberg Street).**TITLE DETAILS:****USE:** Church, memorial lawn & parish hall, etc.**CONSTRUCTION DATE:** 1876-7 Hall: 1902**SOURCE:** 3&4**DESIGNER:** Frederick Wyatt; Hall: D.A. Little**SOURCE:** 2&7**CRITERIA:** H2; Ar1/H2; So1,2; Ar3/H3/H6**HISTORIC THEME:** Community Life/ Townships/ Commemorating/ Exploration.**DESCRIPTION:** **STYLE:** Early English Gothic **STORIES:** 1 **DETACHED.****MATERIALS:** WALLS Sandstone **ROOF** Slate **STRUCTURE** Lb & Trusses**CONDITION:** Very good **INTACTNESS:** Excellent **THREATS:** -**SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:**

MATERIALS. FORM. FACADE. ROOF FORM. USE.

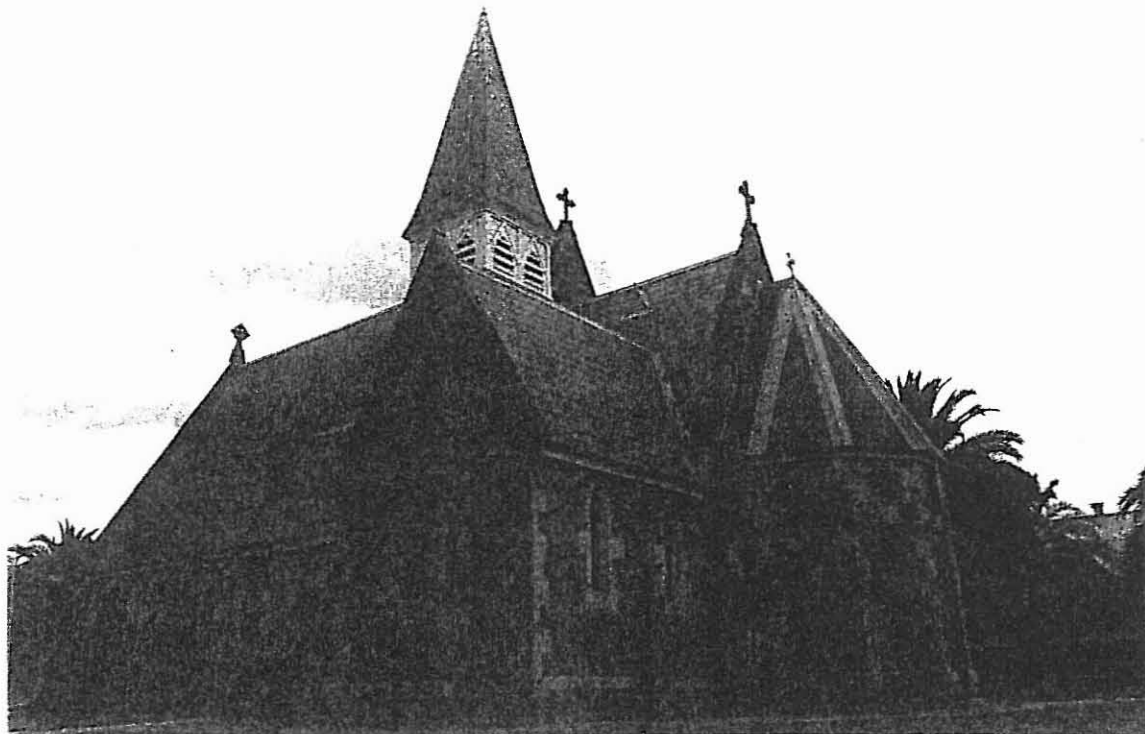
PARAPET DECORATION. EAVES DECORATION. ROOF DECORATION.

WALL DECORATION. WINDOWS.

UNPAINTED FINISH. INTERIORS. OUTBUILDINGS.

STREET FURNITURE. FENCES/GATES. MEMORIAL/GRAVES.

TREES.

SIGNIFICANCE:**TYPE:** HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. SOCIAL.**LEVEL:** REGIONAL.**DESIGNATION EXISTING:** NTC.**RECOMMENDED CONTROL/NOMINATION:** RNE. PLANNING SCHEME. AREA 1.**MAP NO:** U4.07 **SURVEY:** RP & JS **DATE:** 29.1.94 **NEGS:** 16.6-17/1022-

HISTORY: Church of England services were held from 1855 in a brick-lined iron church (ref: 100) erected on the south side of the present Memorial Hall.¹ Erected on land donated by W.H. Bacchus, the iron church served the community for two decades. A burgeoning congregation however required a more appropriate place of worship, and in 1876, tenders were called for the erection of a stone church designed by the architect Frederick Wyatt.² Wyatt was a Melbourne architect specialising in the design of churches, between 1864 and 1878. The foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Ballarat, Dr Thornton on May 20, 1876³ and it was opened on 5 June 1877 by Dr Moorhouse, Bishop of Melbourne. The sandstone was obtained from Grant's Quarry at Maddingley⁴ and the dressings were of Waurin Ponds freestone.⁵

In 1881, two lancets and an oculus were installed above the west porch as the gift of S.T. Staughton in memory of his father, Simon. Two of the six windows on the northern wall were donated by William Grant in memory of his brothers, John and Henry George. Two windows were donated by George Wood in memory of Mrs Catherine McLeod manufactured by Ferguson and Urie Melbourne.⁶ In 1953 memorial gates were erected in memory of A.C. Simon, secretary, treasurer and pillar of the church. In 1955, a memorial kindergarten was dedicated by Archbishop Booth.

The Parish Hall was erected in 1902 to the design of Shire Secretary and Engineer, D.A. Little.⁷ The memorial stone was laid by Archdeacon Hindley, Dean of Melbourne.

In 1968, a decision was made to remove the graves from a small cemetery established in 1849 for the burial of Captain W.H. Bacchus.⁸ The graveyard had closed in 1894, by which date approximately 150 burials had taken place. Four headstones were placed in a Memorial Wall erected in 1971, and three headstones were set in the south wall of the church. Captain Bacchus' grave, misplaced during restoration, was reconstructed with assistance from the Bacchus Marsh and District Historical Society and dedicated on October 8, 1972 by Archdeacon, J.V. Gason.⁹

¹ Osborn, *A History of Holy Trinity, Church of England*, pp. 10-11, 19.

² Lewis, M. (Ed.), *Australian Architectural Index*.

³ Osborn, op.cit., p.19.

⁴ Ibid. p.18.

⁵ Williams, *A History of Bacchus Marsh and its Pioneers*, p.177.

⁶ Osborn, op.cit., p.18.

⁷ Ibid. p.27.

⁸ Ibid, p.34.

⁹ Ibid., pp.38-40.

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: Church exterior. A sandstone eclectic Early English Gothic church, liturgically aligned with the east gable to Gisborne Street. Stone is rock-faced; dressings are sawn. There is a six bay nave and a two bay chancel with a canted apse. Each bay has lancet pair windows (excepting bays one, six and chancel) and there is a slate roof. The chancel has two bands of bevelled scales and gablet vents with incised trefoils.

The apse has a coved mould with quatrefoils over to each facet. The porch is a lateral hip linked to the nave front with a gable. It has wrought iron cresting and finials. It has two lancets inscribed with 'convex shoulders' and a similar Perpendicular Gothic door. The west wall has a trefoil rose window and two large lancets. The vestry is in the south-east corner with doors (as the porch windows) and a lancet with foiled arch, ogee head inscribed quatrefoil and crosses. Over is the tower. The first storey has the foiled ogee lancets and terminates in a flat stringcourse with inscribed trefoils. Over this is a timber belfry with squat lancet vents and square candle-snuffer roof, of slate with scale bands. There are two isolated tombstones on the north side.

Hall. This has three bays, of red brick with two cream bands, tuckpointed, with bluestone cills. The gable end faces Gisborne Road, with loopy barges at front and rear and a cast-iron lace valance across the gable, with an oculus vent. The font has a pointed door with a fanlight between lancets. The parish office (undistinguished architecturally), itself a World War II memorial, is behind. The Vicarage is in the south west corner of the site.

Memorial Lawn. South of the church are three tumbled coffee brick wall panels into which are set 7 further tombstones dating from 1852-63, of pioneers, in marble and sandstone. There is a pink granite marker-stone in front. Further south is the sandstone tombstone of Captain Henry Bacchus himself (died 28.2.1849), of sandstone within wrought iron railings, set on a bluestone plinth, with its own marker.

Street Furniture. The red brick kerb and channel continues on the west side of Gisborne Road to Lerderberg Street, where there is diamond pre-cut concrete footpath paving.

Interior. (Not inspected). This has a fine timber roof supported by exposed trusses. It has painted texts on the walls and stained glass windows. The earlier windows were imported from Brussels and the others, installed from 1881 are those by Ferguson and Urie.¹⁰

The Garden. An austere landscape surrounds the Anglican Church with an impressive avenue of eleven palms lining the concrete driveway to the north and to the west, and peppercorns. Eroded lawns and embankments are the only other vegetation. Mature natural stands of indigenous Eucalyptus species provide an informal backdrop to the old churchyard, cemetery and the public open space behind. The land is undulating, with the

¹⁰ Miles Lewis, Ed. *Victorian Churches. Their Origins, their story and their architecture* National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Melbourne 1991, p.92.

Church built on the higher part of the site. A screen of exotic trees is planted to protect the tennis courts to Gisborne Street.

Plant species include:

<i>Phoenix carariensis</i>	Canary Island Palm
<i>Eucalyptus microcarpa</i> (dominant species)	Grey Box
<i>Cupressus macrocarpa</i> 'Lambertiana'	Lambert Cypress
<i>Schinus molle</i>	Peppercorn Tree
<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	Bay Laurel

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: There are ten churches and two ruins of churches in Bacchus Marsh. Of these, five are nineteenth century and there are seven (protestant) of the Early English style. This is one of the three larger churches. with refs: 195 and 245). This is Wyatt's largest and most significant church. His only other known complete church is St Peter's, Tahara (1881), on the Murndal estate, which is considerably smaller and less adventurous.¹¹

SIGNIFICANCE: An Early English Gothic Anglican Church of local stone, with a tower, belfry and interior decoration (including Ferguson and Urie and Bussells windows) designed by Frederick Wyatt of Melbourne and built over 1876-77, now in a somewhat austere garden setting.

A memorial lawn has early gravestones (1852-63), including the grave of Captain Henry Bacchus (1849), a rare pre-gold rush object. There is also a hall, (1902, D.A. Little) and vicarage.

The Church (complex) is of regional historical significance for its association with religious developments in community life. It is of regional architectural significance to the community as representative, yet interesting example of a developed Early English Gothic style and as a work of the architect, Wyatt.

It is of regional historic significance for its association with the town over 120 years and as an intact substantial Anglican church. It is of social significance as known and valued by the community as part of the sense of identity of the place, with St Andrews, as skyline landmarks and illustrated on representative views of the town.

Finally, the church and memorial lawn commemorate various pioneers of the town including Captain Bacchus, its founder and pioneer settler.

INTACTNESS: Excellent.

¹¹ Lewis, op.cit., p.142.

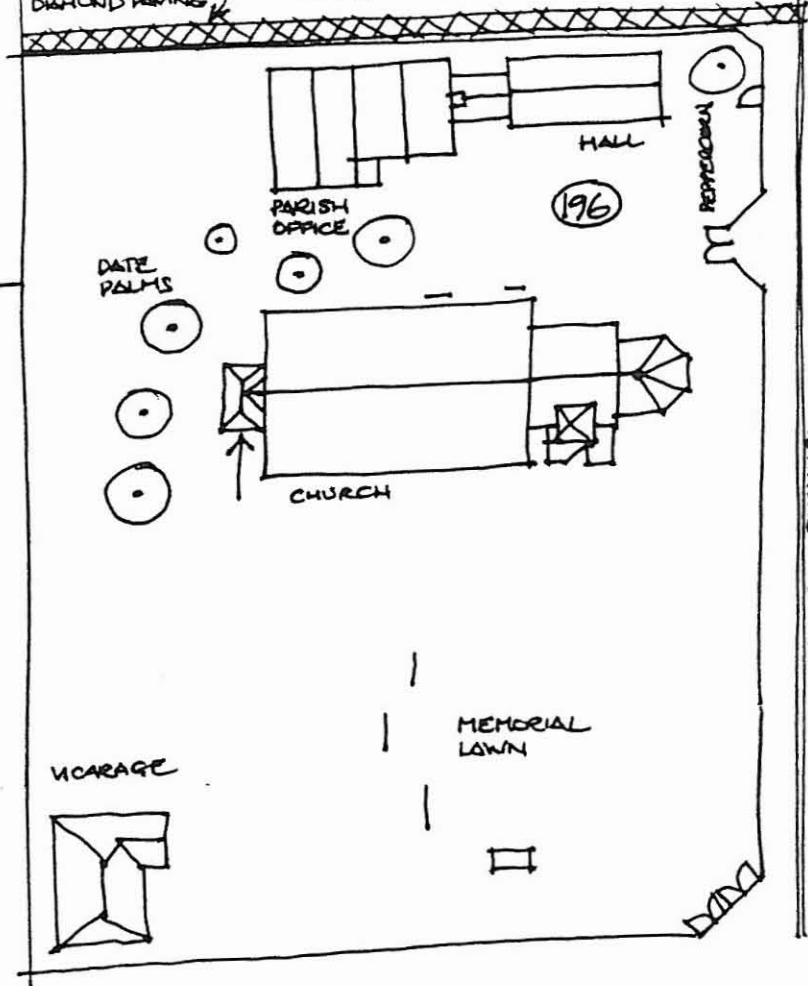
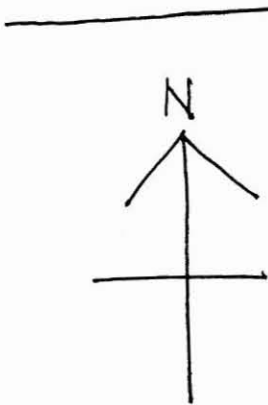
CONDITIONS & THREATS: Very good. There is a concrete slab apron all around the church, but a gap that allows water penetration which should be sealed. There is erosion of stone in the apse. Generally there is blackening (lichen?) of non-vertical stone surfaces. One porch finial is fractured and falling.

CONCRETE
DIAMOND PAVING

LERDERBERG STREET

196

197



HALL

PARISH OFFICE

DATE PALMS

CHURCH

MEMORIAL LAWN

VICARAGE

ROSE GARDEN

BRICK PATH & CHANNEL
ROAD
GISBORNE

195