

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.**Ref: 272**

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

NAME: Christ Church Anglican Church Myrniong.**PREVIOUS NAME:** Christ Church, Church of England, Myrniong.**ADDRESS:** Hardy Street, Myrniong.**TITLE DETAILS:****USE:** Church**CONSTRUCTION DATE:** 1864 **SOURCE:** Sign & 1**CRITERIA:** H2; So1,3/H2; Ar1,3; So1,3**HISTORIC THEME:** Community life/ Townships.**DESCRIPTION:** **STYLE:** E E Gothic **STORIES:** 1 **DETACHED.****MATERIALS:** **WALLS** Stone **ROOF** Iron **STRUCTURE** Lb, trusses.**CONDITION:** Good **INTACTNESS:** Good **THREATS:****SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:**

MATERIALS. FORM. FACADE. USE.

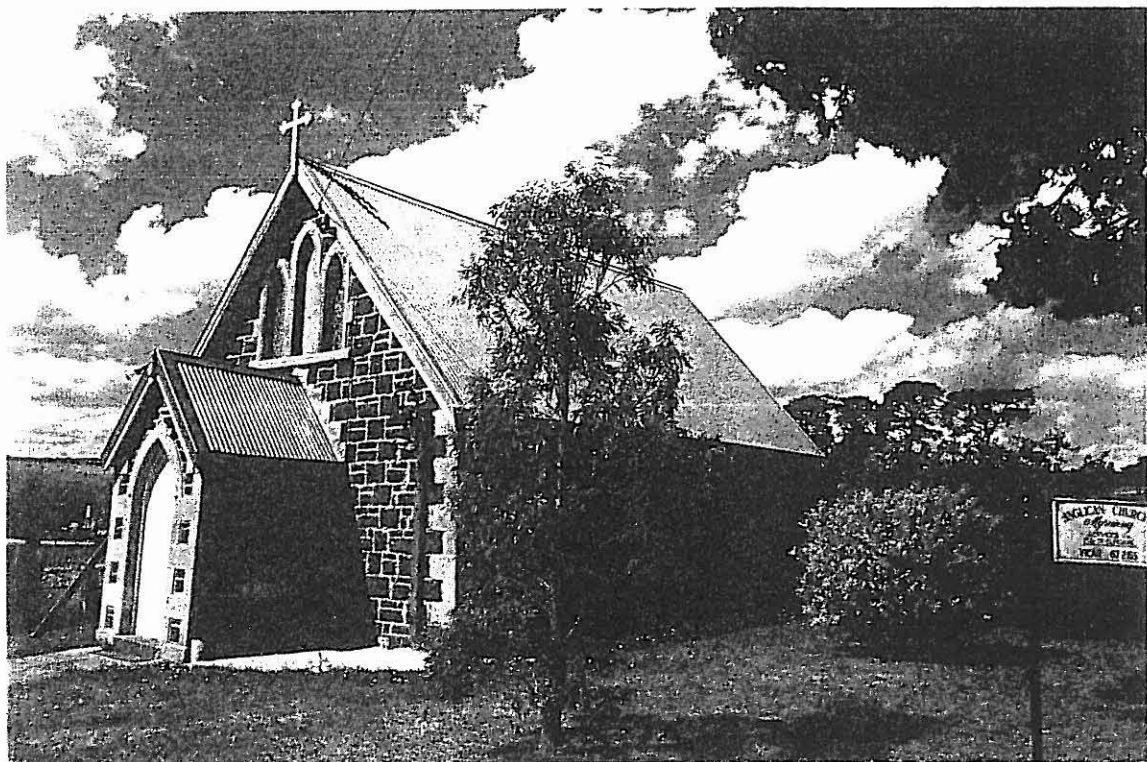
WALL DECORATION. DOORS. WINDOWS.

UNPAINTED FINISH.

TREES.

SIGNIFICANCE:**TYPE:** HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. SOCIAL.**LEVEL:** LOCAL.**DESIGNATION EXISTING:** Nil**RECOMMENDED CONTROL:** PLANNING SCHEME.

AREA 3.

MAP NO: M2**SURVEY:** RP**DATE:** 20.2.94**NEGS:** 22.6-8

HISTORY: This bluestone church was opened amid great ceremony on December 22, 1864. "A red letter day in [the] local calender", (source??) the completion of Christ Church was the result of considerable community effort. A site was reserved for Church of England purposes on December 1, 1862, with construction commencing in the winter of 1864:

the result of their united efforts is a very neat church of bluestone, with freestone facings, and open-timbered roof. The west and side windows are lancet-shaped, with crimson margin; and the east window of three lights, in stained glass, is of a handsome design. The total cost of the building is £500 (\$1,000).¹

Christ Church was initially in the Parochial District of Blackwood and Trentham, and from 1900, in the District of Bacchus Marsh.²

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: An Early English Gothic stone church, orientated liturgically. The nave has a gable-roof over three bays and a gabled porch on the axis. There is a lancet to each bay, with a triple lancet in the west wall, the centre being blank. Glass is early diamond leadlight. The porch has side lancets and pointed entry. The east window is a triple lancet with mostly non-figurative stained glass. Walls are rock-faced coursed bluestone on a sandstone base. There are quoins to corners and flat architraves in dressed golden sandstone. A bell is fixed to the south west corner. The interior was not accessible. There is a timber picket fence to the front, memorial gates and a chain link pedestrian gate at rear. There are three pines in the nature strip.

Landscape. The streetscape to the Anglican Church is dominated by two *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pines).

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: There are ten churches in Bacchus Marsh identified in the Study. Of these, the seven Protestant churches are Early English and generally stone. The three Roman Catholic, Decorated and brick. Five of the churches are nineteenth century. This is the second oldest church in Bacchus Marsh. Only Pentland Hills Uniting is earlier (1862, ref: 279).

SIGNIFICANCE: An Early English Gothic bluestone and sandstone ashlar Anglican Church opened in 1864.

It is of local historical significance for its association with the religious development of community life of the township. It has architectural significance as an intact surviving representative example of the its style.

¹ *Church of England Gazette*, 2 January 1865. National Trust of Australia (Victoria) File No. 4287.

² Lidgett, *Myrmiong and District: A Brief History*, p.16.

Finally, it is locally significant socially, as known and valued by the community as part of the sense of identity of the place and as a traditional community focus and meeting place for over 130 years.

Regional.

INTACTNESS: Excellent. No alterations are apparent.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Good. It has been poorly repointed in inappropriate Portland cement at different times, presumably after structural problems. There have been various structural measures taken. There are four metal tie-rods between timber plates in each nave side wall, and four other tie-rods at eaves level. In the south-west corner is an old S-shaped plated. There are four further tie-rods in the porch west wall. It has been re-roofed.

Garden. The trees would appear to be of the original planting to the town and are important to preserve. The lower branches have been pruned on the road side of the trees and the larger of the two has a significant lean to leeward due to the exposed location, although they do not appear to have suffered from storm damage.