

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH
360 Church Street

History and Description

An austere Early English Gothic style church erected in 1850 on land donated by the pioneer cleric and squatter Ref. Joseph Docker. The architects were Blackburn and Newson, the builder Sims & Beaver. Later construction of galleries, side aisles, porches and chancels were undertaken between 1854-76 to the designs of James and Charles Webb, and Nathaniel Billings, the builder being David Mitchell.

It was the first church in Victoria built in bluestone, and one of the few churches in Melbourne with its ecclesiastical west door truly oriented. In 1869, a J.W. Walker organ, manufactured in London, was installed. It is believed to be the largest organ by this manufacturer remaining in Australia or England.

Internally the interior galleries have been removed and the church furniture rearranged.

Statement of Significance

The first church in Victoria built of bluestone, initially constructed during the difficult and inflationary gold-rush era, and an important work of architects Blackburn and Newson.

References

National Trust of Australia (Vic.) F.N. 2155.
 National Estate Register citation.



West front, photographed pre 1863.
 (La Trobe Library small picture collection.)