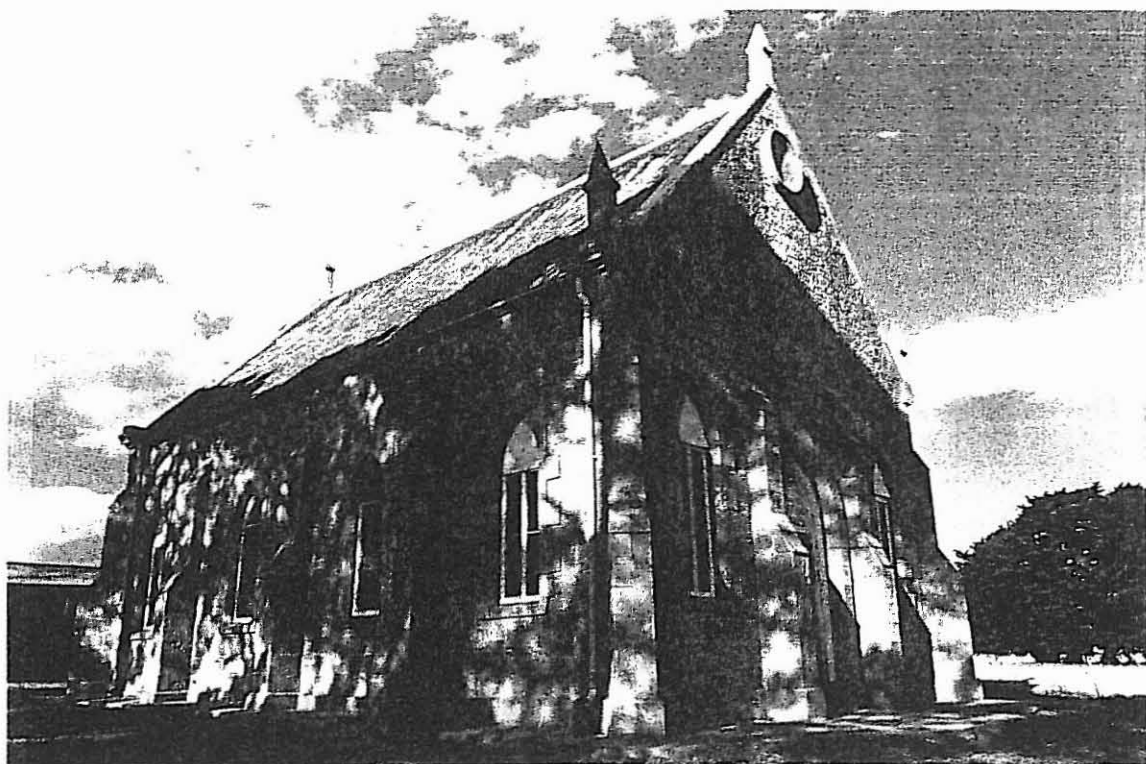


BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 279

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

<u>NAME:</u> Pentland Hills Uniting Church.	
<u>PREVIOUS NAME:</u> Presbyterian church, Pentland Hills.	
<u>ADDRESS:</u> Myrniong-Greendale Road, Myrniong.	
<u>TITLE DETAILS:</u>	
<u>USE:</u> Church	
<u>CONSTRUCTION DATE:</u> 1861-2	
<u>SOURCE:</u> 1	
<u>BUILDER:</u> Watson & Reid	<u>SOURCE:</u> 1
<u>DESIGNER:</u> William Douglas(s)	
<u>CRITERIA:</u> H2; So1,3; Ar1,3	<u>HISTORIC THEME:</u> Community life.
<u>DESCRIPTION:</u> STYLE: E E Gothic	<u>STORIES:</u> 1 <u>DETACHED.</u>
<u>MATERIALS:</u> WALLS Stone	<u>ROOF</u> Iron <u>STRUCTURE</u> Lb, trusses
<u>CONDITION:</u> Reasonable	<u>INTACTNESS:</u> Very good
<u>THREATS:</u> Structural movement, exposure.	
<u>SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:</u>	
MATERIALS. FORM. FACADE. USE.	
PARAPET DECORATION.	
WALL DECORATION.	
UNPAINTED FINISH.	
<u>SIGNIFICANCE:</u>	
<u>TYPE:</u> HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. SOCIAL.	
<u>LEVEL:</u> LOCAL.	
<u>DESIGNATION EXISTING:</u> NTC	
<u>RECOMMENDED CONTROL:</u> PLANNING SCHEME.	
<u>MAP NO:</u> R1.04	<u>SURVEY:</u> RP
<u>DATE:</u> 20.2.94	<u>NEGS:</u> 22.27A, 23.1



HISTORY: In March 1859, at a congregational meeting held in John Thomas' flour mill, Myrniong, a decision was reached to build a place of worship for the predominantly Presbyterian community. The wife of the late Charles McLachlan donated 10 acres (4 ha) at Pentland Hills, and on September 20, 1861, a foundation stone was laid by Mrs Thomas. Fifteen months later, on November 2 1862, a Presbyterian Church, designed by William Douglas(s) (sic), was officially opened by Rev. A. Kiniamount. The contractors were Messrs. Watson and Reid; the contract price, £776 (\$1,552).¹

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: A coursed sandstone Early English Gothic isolated Church, with a slate roof, its west gable front facing the road (south). This is decorated with three stone pinnacles and one on the ridge at the north end. The lower pinnacles are set on corbel moulds. Windows are single lancets and the entry door is pointed. There are quoins to all openings. There are moulded oculi in the upper gables. There are four bays to the nave separated by buttresses and three to the ends.

There are two slender windows at the north end, one dated 1959. Between these, on axis, is the chancel (vestry?), with a chimney with a capping mould, and a stone stair. Walls are roughly coursed rubble, with a tooled surface. Cills and quoins are dressed and squared.² There are impressively extensive views from the church to the south. There is a pine windbreak on the western site boundary.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: William Douglas(s) also designed three churches at Kyneton (1851):³ St Andrew's, Ebdon Street (1857) and the Congregational Church (now Kyneton Arts Centre) Hutton Street (1859-60), both of which have gable end pinnacles and St Paul's, Pavlett Street (1856-60). There are ten churches in Bacchus Marsh identified in the Study, of which five are nineteenth century. The Roman Catholic Churches are brick and Decorated and the Protestant are Early English and generally stone. This is the oldest church in Bacchus Marsh, in use. (Only the remains of the 'Iron Church' (1855) and Hopetoun Chapel (1850-51), refs: 100 and 353, are earlier).

SIGNIFICANCE: A coursed sandstone Early English Gothic isolated former Presbyterian church.

It is of local historical significance for its association with the religious development of community life. It has architectural significance as an intact surviving representative example of its style, and of the work of the architect William Douglas(s).

¹ Lidgett, *Myrniong and District: A Brief History*, p.13; Lewis, *Victorian Churches*, p.92.

² Lewis, op.cit., suggests the window quoins may suggest the church was intended to be rendered. It is odd though that such beautiful honey-coloured sandstone should be concealed.

³ Miles Lewis, *Architectural Survey. Final Report*, Department of Architecture and Building, University of Melbourne. Melbourne 1977, p.31 and Lewis, op.cit., pp.131 & 132.

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

INTACTNESS: Very good. The oculi are sealed with galvanised steel. Windows generally are replaced with flat-head frames, the pointed heads sealed over. The stone pinnacles missing from the north end.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Reasonable. There are various tie rods: two at each end longitudinally, five at the sides at cornice level, and there is one in each direction in the chancel (ie nine in total). However there is still recent extensive structural cracking to the channel at the tie rods and elsewhere, and in the south, east and north walls. Repointing has been undertaken in Portland cement. A concrete apron has been laid all around. Stones have weathered and eroded.