

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 284A

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

<u>NAME:</u> Our Lady Help Of Christians Church			
<u>ADDRESS:</u> Myrniong - Korobeit Road (Cnr Muirs Road), Korobeit (Shire of Ballan)			
<u>TITLE DETAILS:</u>			
<u>USE:</u> Church.			
<u>CONSTRUCTION DATE:</u> 1903		<u>SOURCE:</u> 1	
<u>DESIGNER:</u> Kempson & Connelly		<u>BUILDER:</u> Swanson Bros <u>SOURCE:</u> 1	
<u>CRITERIA:</u> H2; So1,3; Ar1,3.		<u>HISTORIC THEME:</u> Community life.	
<u>DESCRIPTION:</u> <u>STYLE:</u> Dec. Gothic <u>STORIES:</u> 1 <u>DETACHED.</u>			
<u>MATERIALS:</u> <u>WALLS</u> Brick <u>ROOF</u> Slate <u>STRUCTURE</u> Lb, trusses.			
<u>CONDITION:</u> Very good. <u>INTACTNESS:</u> Excellent <u>THREATS:</u> ---			
<u>SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:</u> FORM. FACADE. ROOF FORM. PLAN. USE. PARAPET DECORATION. EAVES DECORATION. ROOF DECORATION.. CHIMNEY.WALL DECORATION. DOORS. WINDOWS. PAINTWORK SCHEME. SIGNS. UNPAINTED FINISH. INTERIORS. VIEWS. TREES..			
<u>SIGNIFICANCE:</u>			
<u>TYPE:</u> HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL.			
<u>LEVEL:</u> LOCAL.			
<u>DESIGNATION EXISTING:</u> Nil			
<u>RECOMMENDED CONTROL:</u> PLANNING SCHEME.			
<u>MAP NO:</u> R1.03	<u>SURVEY:</u> RP	<u>DATE:</u> 28.2.94	<u>NEGS:</u> 23. 32



HISTORY: A Catholic school was opened in the 1860s on the corner of Muir's Lane, Mt Blackwood. In 1866 it had 70 pupils.¹ On 10 May 1873 the first church service was held in the school, rather than the Purcell's house, Mt Blackwood, as previously. About 1889, the school closed and the building became known as St Michael's Catholic Chapel. This was the building replaced in 1903 on a site purchased from Lady Clarke for £4 (\$8). It was designed by Kempson & Connolly architects of Melbourne and built by Swanson Brothers builders. After the opening ceremony, on 11 October 1893, guests were entertained at Korobeit School.²

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: A 5-bay red brick gable-roofed church in the Early English Gothic style. It has a slate roof. The first north bay is a porch and there is a chancel on axis with a vestry, projecting northwards from this. Dressings are render generally painted cream: gables have parapets, buttresses have stepped cappings, windows are lancets with soldier course heads, with label moulds and foliate stops and there is a stringcourse at cill height. The ridge has a metal cresting, there are gambrel gablet vents with finials to each bay. The west end has a cruciform octafoil rose window over triple lancets and the vestry has an oculus over a straight leaded window pair. The interior was not accessible.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: This is the only Early English Catholic church in the study area. There are 10 churches in the Shire, of which three are Catholic. Kempson and Connolly also designed the chapel at St Bernards School, built in the same year, 1905 (ref: 197). They designed numerous churches and religious buildings, as well as houses between 1890 and 1914, including St Josephs, Benalla (1907-8).³

SIGNIFICANCE: A red brick Early English Catholic church built in 1905 and designed by Kempson and Connolly, architects.

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 its architects Kempson and Connolly.

INTACTNESS: Apparently excellent.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Very good.

¹ *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 4 August 1866.

² Margaret Love, *St Bernard's Church, Baccush Marsh. 1874-1974. A Brief History, etc..* Bacchus Marsh Express, Bacchus Marsh 1974, p.11.

³ Miles Lewis, *Architectural Survey. Final Report.* University of Melbourne, Melbourne. 1977, p.56. Miles Lewis, Ed., *Victorian Churches. Their origins, their story and their architecture.* National Trust of Australia (Victoria), pp.75&103.