

**HISTORY** : St James Church was originally opened in 1854. Prior to that time, priests said mass in a schoolroom. The first service was held at St Ignatius in 1870.<sup>1</sup>

The 1899 MMBW plan 1052 shows the site at 94 Burnley Street North, as it then was, as bounded by Somerset, Burnley and Kent Streets, entirely occupied by a substantial villa with various outbuildings and an elaborate geometric garden layout, with statues, fishpond, etc. This must have been removed and the church built, soon after, c1905(?).

**VISUAL DESCRIPTION** : A six-bay, symmetrical Early English Gothic, polychromatic brick church, with a gable-parapet roof facing. Bricks are red with cream and dark brown dressings. The bays are divided by cross-gable capped buttresses, with lancet-windows. The roof is slate with a fine ridge-ventilator. The gable has render gable-capping, terminating in gable-corbels. The upper gable and a band at the oculus window are glazed ceramic tiles. There is a similarly gabled porch, with a lancet-pair. At left, rear is the vestry.

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS** : Window configuration is identical to the Continuing Congregational Hall, (ref : 137), probably by chance. Comparable to : FCJ Chapel 1897, gatehouse 1900, Convent 1901 and school 1904 complex, The Vaucluse, as designed by G.W. Vanheems. Other early twentieth century mediaeval public buildings in Richmond are : 92A Burnley Street, Continuing Congregational Church, c1920 (ref : 24); 271 Burnley Street, former Presbyterian Church, 1925 (ref : 31); 290-92 Burnley Street, St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, 1910-26 (ref : 34); 12 Manton Street, Salvation Army, 1910 (ref : 50) and 469 Punt Road, Riverside Inn, c1920s (ref : 173).

**SIGNIFICANCE** : A polychromatic, symmetrical, Early English Gothic brick church of about 1900. It is of architectural, historic and social significance at local level.

**INTACTNESS** : Very good. Confessional booths have been added to the second bay left. The interior was not inspected.

**CONDITION & THREATS** : Excellent.

**REFERENCES** : 1. City of Richmond and Carringbush Regional Library, Copping it Sweet. Shared Memories of Richmond, Melbourne 1988, p.142.