

Building:	St Bartholomew's Anglican Church Complex	Significance:	B
Address:	290-300 Burnley Street, Richmond	Melway Map Ref:	2D E9
Building Type:	Church, Hall	Construction Date:	1925-26
Architect:	Gawler & Drummond	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:		Condition:	
G[x] F[] P[]		G[x] F[] P[]	
Existing Heritage Listings:		Recommended Heritage Listings:	
Victorian Heritage Register	[]	Victorian Heritage Register	[]
Register of the National Estate	[]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

History

Land on the south-east corner of Burnley and Swan Streets, extending back to the railway line, was granted for the first St Bartholomew's church by the government in May 1870. The land was initially leased before local residents came to demand their own church; in 1883 a petition was presented to the Minister and the Warden of St Stephen's, Church Street, Richmond, with 28 signatures. Donations were requested in the local paper for a church to be named St Bartholomew's, possibly after the patron saint of tanners. A plan was prepared in September 1884 by Langford & Hutchinson for a 'lofty wooden building in the Gothic style'¹ which was erected by January 1885 at a cost of £328.²

After minor extensions in 1889 the building was later extended to twice its original size to a design by Barnes & Dickman. It was erected by Dean & Son at a cost of £400.³ The Gothic church then comprised a nave, chancel, sanctuary, vestry, porch and baptistery. In 1903 the church was moved back 120 feet (40 metres) towards the railway line to allow for the construction of a brick church, which was designed by Thomas Watt & Son. The foundation stone was laid on 16 July 1910 and the church was erected by J Currie of Camberwell at a cost of £1,500.⁴ Some of the windows in the church were by Brooks Robinson.⁵ The organ, manufactured by George Fincham, was installed in 1913, after having been previously located at St Michael's Roman Catholic Church, Wagga Wagga (1887-1893) and the Melbourne Grammar School (1893-1913). In 1914 a vicarage was erected at 62 Bendigo Street.⁶

The present church was erected when a more central location was required. Land was purchased on the corner of Burnley and Boyd Streets in 1925 and eight of the cottages on it were demolished. A ninth was retained for use as a vicarage.⁷

Plans were prepared by Gawler & Drummond in 1925 and 1926 for a Church and Hall respectively. A kindergarten was designed in 1926 by the same firm.⁸ The foundation stone for the hall was laid by His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, Harrington C Lees, on Saturday 19 December 1925. The hall was used a temporary chapel after the last service was held in the Swan Street church in May 1926 after which the land was sold.⁹

The foundation stone from the previous church was relaid by Lord Somers, Governor of Victoria, on 25 July 1926. Many of the materials from the old church were salvaged, including the Brooks & Robinson windows and the George Fincham organ, and were used in the construction of the existing church, which cost £15,000. The church opened on 27 October 1926.¹⁰

The Fincham organ was installed in 1927. The bells in the tower, which was dedicated to the memory of soldiers killed in World War One, were given in memory of Mrs A Challingsworth, who died in 1927. A single bell was installed in March 1927, a further seven in March 1929. The bells are the only Australian-made bells presently hung for full circle ringing. The bells were manufactured by John Danks & Son and were manufactured in the years they were installed.¹¹

The vicarage was originally a two-roomed timber house built in 1874, and enlarged and brick veneered at the time of the re-siting of the church in 1926. During 1991 and 1992 the vicarage was renovated and enlarged; it was blessed by the honorary assistant priest, father Douglas Bartholomeusz, in the presence of Bishop John Stewart, on 30 January 1993.¹²

Description

The church is a red brick building with a gabled slate roof and a crenellated corner belltower. The church has pointed arch traceried windows with clinker brick dressings and red brick head moulds and brick sills. The entrance porch is located at the base of the tower and a spiral stair leads to the bellchamber. The belltower has high segmental arched openings framed by red brick mouldings, and contains the eight bells, hung in a configuration for full circle ringing. The tower has red brick staged buttresses. A clinker brick soldier course runs around the building at impost

level of the lower arched windows. The intactness of the church interior is good: it has a dark stained timber trussed roof.

The hall is a single-storey red brick building with a (re-tiled) jerkinhead roof and pointed arch window and door openings. The entrance, on the east elevation, has simple brick orders, and is framed by a heavy door-case trimmed with contrasting blue bricks or terracotta tiles. The entrance is flanked by two gable-ends, each decorated with blue brick diaperwork, and penetrated by three arched windows, the details of which match those in the church. Along the south elevation, the windows are set between brick piers, and below a projecting concrete lintel resting on terracotta brackets. To the rear of the hall is the Guild Room, the entrance to which is similar in composition to that of the main hall. Both the Guild Room and the hall retain original signage above their respective entrances.

The vicarage is a single-storey red brick building.

The low brick front fence to the church is not original.

Comparative Examples

Former Congregational Church, Burnley Street (corner Kent Street), Richmond

Significance

The St Bartholomew's Church complex is of local architectural significance and local historical interest. The significance of the complex is derived primarily from the design and brick detailing of the church and hall, the latter which is notable for its diaperwork. Whilst the vicarage has undergone alterations in the 1990s, the church and hall are substantially intact. The site has been continuously occupied by a church since 1885.

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- 1 J Harrison, *St Bartholemew's Anglican Church Burnley. A History of the First 100 Years, 1885-1985*, Richmond 1991, p. 1.
 - 2 J Harrison, *St Bartholemew's Anglican Church Burnley. A History of the First 100 Years, 1885-1985*, Richmond 1991, p. 1.
 - 3 J Harrison, *St Bartholemew's Anglican Church Burnley. A History of the First 100 Years, 1885-1985*, Richmond 1991, p. 3.
 - 4 J Harrison, *St Bartholemew's Anglican Church Burnley. A History of the First 100 Years, 1885-1985*, Richmond 1991, p. 5.
 - 5 J Harrison, *St Bartholemew's Anglican Church Burnley. A History of the First 100 Years, 1885-1985*, Richmond 1991, p. 14.
 - 6 J Harrison, *St Bartholemew's Anglican Church Burnley. A History of the First 100 Years, 1885-1985*, Richmond 1991, p. 6.
 - 7 J Harrison, *St Bartholemew's Anglican Church Burnley. A History of the First 100 Years, 1885-1985*, Richmond 1991, p. 7.
 - 8 M Lewis (ed.), *Australian Architectural Index. Source: Urban Conservation Projects, Survey of Architectural Drawing.*
 - 9 J Harrison, *St Bartholemew's Anglican Church Burnley. A History of the First 100 Years, 1885-1985*, Richmond 1991, p. 8.
 - 10 J Harrison, *St Bartholemew's Anglican Church Burnley. A History of the First 100 Years, 1885-1985*, Richmond 1991, p. 9.
 - 11 J Harrison, *A Short History of the Bells of St Bartholemew's, Burnley*, Richmond 1991, *passim*.
 - 12 *Plaque on vicarage, 1993.*