

Building:

St Joseph's Church, Otter Street



<u>Allotment Reference:</u>	73
<u>National Trust Register:</u>	-
<u>National Estate Register:</u>	Recommended
<u>Historic Building Council Register:</u>	Recommended
<u>Location within Precinct:</u>	Collingwood Slope
<u>Photograph Date:</u>	12.6.87
<u>Grantee:</u>	George Otter
<u>Original Owner:</u>	
<u>Present Owner:</u>	
<u>Original Use:</u>	Catholic Mission Church and School
<u>Present Use:</u>	Catholic Church

Construction Date:

1860-62

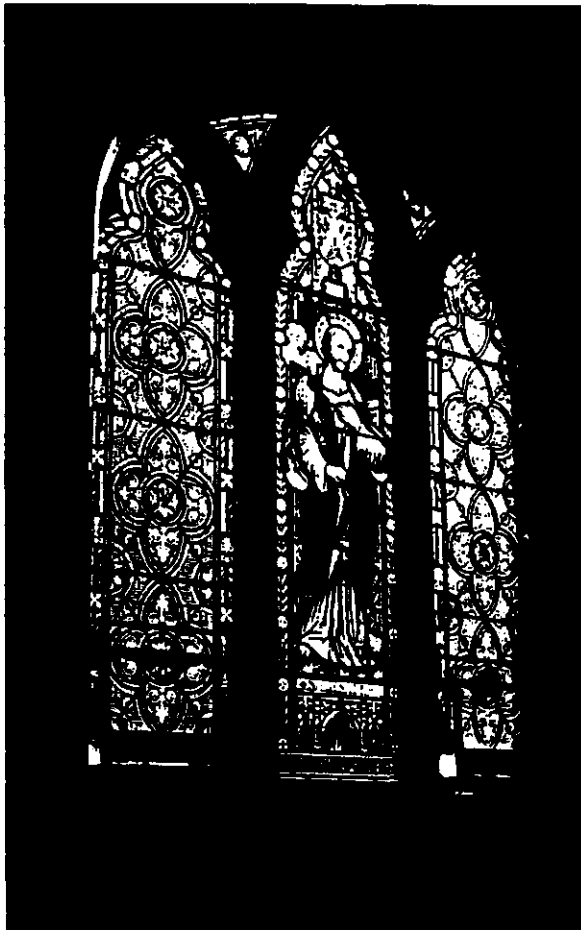
Architect:

J.B. Denny (1860-62) works)

Builder:

J. Fraser & Sons (1891 additions)

Description:



A mid Victorian Gothic church in the Later Gothic: Mainstream Decorated style (see Lewis, M., Victorian Churches: Their Origins, their Story and their Architecture, National Trust of Australia (Vic.), 1991, p.67) with tuck pointing to a stuccoed finish on formerly tuckpointed brick walls with stuccoed dressings. The nave roofs are slated with vents and an unusual castellated tower raised above the former entrance porch.

Inside, the central nave is separated from flanking naves with lancet arched arcading. The central nave roof is carried on scissors trusses with painted diagonal timber linings, the flanking nave roofs being of simpler construction. The sanctuary ceiling linings and beams have been painted, whilst the narthex, which has been altered, retains its curved wall to the nave and panelled balustrade above to the organ loft.

Stained glasswork includes the work of Ferguson and Urie, Rogers and Hughes and William Montgomery.

Condition:

Good, rising damp.

Integrity:

Good, tuckpointed and stuccoed surfaces painted.

History:

Several Catholic schools were opened in Collingwood from 1855 until construction of the present church commenced in 1860 when Bishop Gould laid the foundation stone on 16.12.60 (St Joseph's historical notes). On 13.9.62 J. Denny called tenders for

- Argus, 13.9.62. p.7) and in 1873 the present nave was added. In 1886, following the opening of the St Joseph's School, the building ceased to function for this purpose and in May, 1981, H.E. Tolhurst, architect, was responsible for the east aisle which was opened at that time. A new chancel and sacristies were added with wheel window over the high altar by Messrs Brooks, Robinson and Co., and donated by Tolhurst. a window by Messrs Hughes Rogers & Co. was installed in the Lady Chapel shortly afterwards. Renovations to the confessionals and porch were made in 1967.

Significance:

St Joseph's church is of local importance as the first Catholic Mission church in Collingwood and for its strong links with H.E. Tolhurst, architect, and surveyor for the City of Collingwood. Prior to his work in Collingwood, Tolhurst, who was an Anglican, had spent time as the town clerk and surveyor of the Borough of Eaglehawk and had designed several churches and public buildings in the Bendigo region. The castellated tower is unusual in Catholic church architecture, at the State level, and the windows were considered to be of note in the contemporary press (The Building and Engineering Journal, 9.5.91) for the facial expressions on the figures and for the way in which the colouration of the glass suited Australian conditions.

Recommendations:

Recommended for inclusion on the Historic Buildings Register and the National Estate Register and for Planning Scheme protection.

References:

St Joseph Church historical notes, as noted above.
Some of the Fruits of Fifty Years, 1897, A.H. Massina & Co.

Issue No.2:

May, 1995