

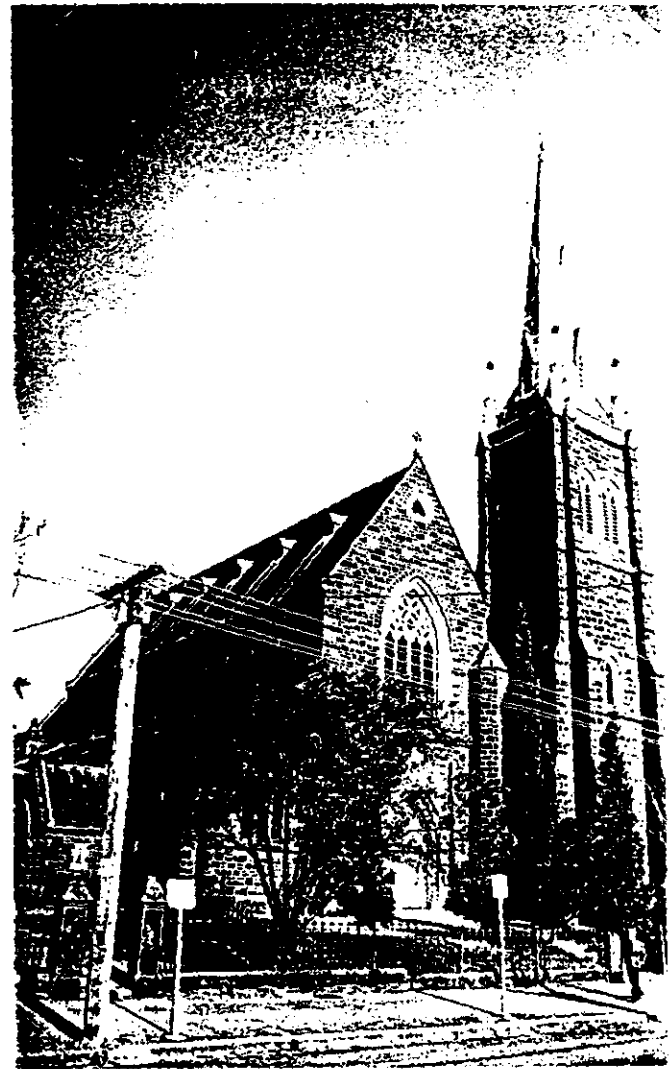
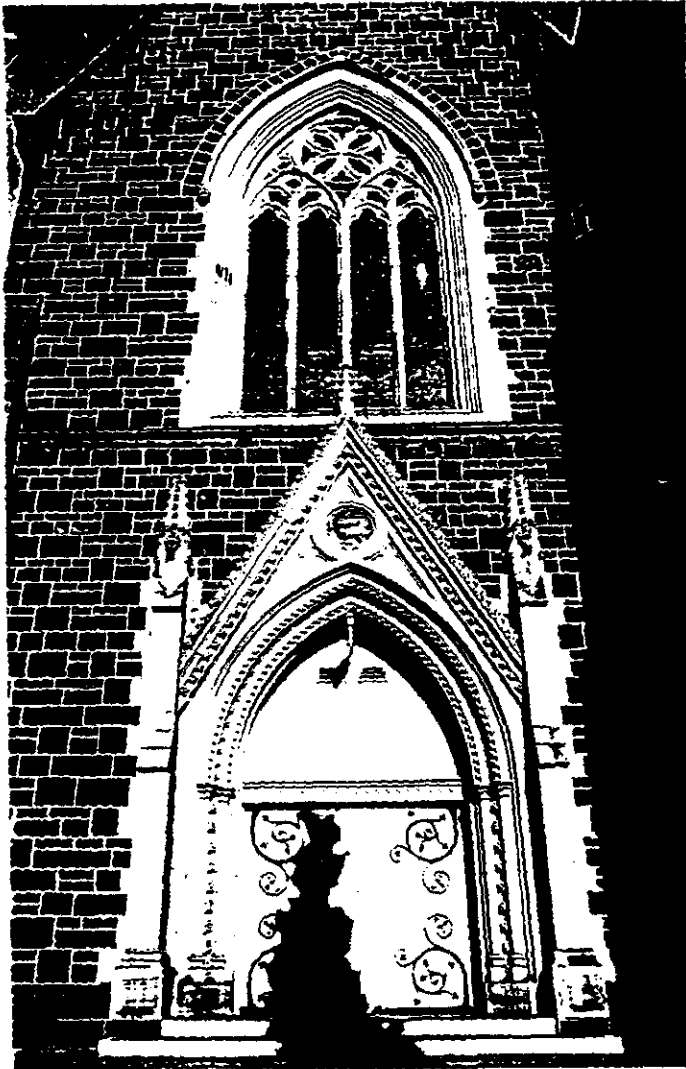
Andrew J. Martin & Associates

Building:

St. John's Catholic Church

Address:

61 Queens Parade



Allotment Reference:

Section 3, Lots 8-9

National Estate Register:

Recommended

Historic Buildings Council
Register:

Recommended

<u>National Trust Register:</u>	-
<u>Location within Precinct:</u>	Clifton Hill Western Residential Precinct
<u>Photo Date</u>	August, 1988
<u>Grantee:</u>	Reserved
<u>Original Owner:</u>	Roman Catholic Properties Trust Archdiocese of Melbourne
<u>Present Owner:</u>	-
<u>Original Use:</u>	Church
<u>Present Use:</u>	Church
 <u>Construction Date:</u>	 1876-1907
<u>Architect:</u>	J.B. Denny
<u>Builder:</u>	Sallery
<u>Description:</u>	An unusually large bluestone Church in the Decorated Gothic Style with central nave flanked by aisles and with two staged towers and sandstone spire on the north-west corner of the nave. The sanctuary, side chapels and porches are subordinate to the nave and enhance the massing. The sandstone dressings incorporate elements of the Decorated style including the tracery of the main windows, whilst the "west" door surrounds incorporate ornamentation typical of the late nineteenth century Gothic revival using medieval motifs and the "Lamb" symbol over the lancet arch doorway. The images of human faces form terminations to the drip moulds are unusual and possibly unique.
<u>Condition:</u>	Good. Some stone faces to drip moulds are in poor condition.
<u>Integrity:</u>	Good. Cast iron palisade fence and gates.

History:

Land was reserved from sale for the Catholic Church on 28-11-1864. On 27-2-1876 the foundation stone for the church was laid by Archbishop Gould. The work of the foundation was completed by July, 1876, other sections following as noted:

- 1882 first completed portion (eastern aisle and nave),
- 1886 stained glass window of Our Lady, St. Anne and St. Elizabeth,
- 1887 tower base,
- 1893 completion of church,
- 1897 stained glass windows of the Ascension, the Good Shepherd and the Apparition of Our Lord to St. Thomas,
- 1906-
1907 addition of spire (Kempson and Conolly, architects).



Significance:

St. Johns Church is a fine example of Decorated Gothic Style and unusually large and complex for a parish church. Its connection with Thomas Verga, the principal benefactor and Messrs. Ferguson and Urie (Melbourne) and Hardman (Birmingham), stained glass manufacturers are of note. The faces to the drip moulds are of special interest and appear to accurately depict persons connected with the Church prior to 1893.

Recommendations:

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

Stabilising of the deterioration process associated with the drip mould faces strongly recommended.

References:

Church records

Issue No. 1:

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