

GEELONG CITY 'C' CITATIONS

Site Name: St. Matthew's Anglican Church

Project File No: 1037

Address: 230 McKillop Street East Geelong 3219

Approx. Date: 1928

Integrity: Moderate-High

Significance Level: C (Local)

Photograph No: 02.26

Survey Date: March 2002



History

This site at 230 McKillop Street, East Geelong, is located on Section 90 of the Geelong Town Plan of 1881. The land originally belonged to C. Sladen, G.A. Knight and S.V. Buckland.

This land (on the east side of Normanby Street) was purchased by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne from the Geelong Grammar School in 1920 and 1921. Part of this acquisition included a block fronting McKillop Street. In 1921, a vicarage was built there. Occupants of the vicarage to 1979 were as follows:

1921-1929	Rev. J.W.P. Oates
1929-1931	Rev. P.W. Robinson
1931-1934	Rev. J.H. Raverty
1935-1937	Rev. R.M. Hudson
1937-1947	Rev. U.R. Tyler
1940-1943	Rev. A.R. May (locum tenens)
1947-1950	Rev. C.R. Miles
1950-1957	Rev. L.J. Cohn
1957-1965	Rev. J.H. Shilton
1965-1979	Rev. P.R. Payn

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1979 - Rev. L.V. Green

Today, this building is no longer used as a vicarage and is known as "Hebron House", serving as a Parish Resource Centre.

A building fund for a new church was commenced early in the ministry of Rev. Oates, and Louis Williams of Melbourne was commissioned as architect. A.E. Orme built the new brick church in 1928, and on 22 September 1928, the foundation stone was laid by Bishop A.V. Green, who later dedicated the church on 23 March 1929. The building was partially financed by parishioners and partly by a bank loan, while each item of furniture was a personal gift of some parishioner or family. Due to the depression of the early 1930s and then World War II, it was not possible to fully complete the architect's original 1928 design, the projected tower - planned to rise an additional 35 feet to house a belfry - was shortened and the planned porches omitted, replaced by temporary wooden entrance porches until 1962. The total cost of construction was approximately 10,000 pounds, the bank loan finally being paid off in 1955. The sanctuary furniture dates from 1917 when it was used in the earlier small church, the Communion Table being a gift of the Belcher family. The pulpit is even older, being from the original Fitzroy Street church. It was a gift of the congregation in 1915 as a memorial to one of its members killed at Gallipoli. For many years the new church had only pedal organs until 1952, when the present pipe organ was subscribed for and built as a "Peace Memorial" following World War II. In addition to the list of ministers above, Canon F.W.Wray conducted services at St. Matthew's early in 1940, and Rev. W.J.T. Pay was acting vicar from 7 November 1943 to 27 May 1945.

With the former parish hall demolished in the 1920s, a new hall was erected and joined to the east wall of the new church. It was designed by Brian Benson and officially opened in 2002. It was built on the site of the former St. Matthew's Tennis Club brick pavilion and toilet block, a remnant of which is visible at the eastern end of the hall. A storage shed was erected between that building and the eastern perimeter fence in 1999.

Facing McKillop Street, between the new church and the old vicarage, is the only extant part of the old Sunday School / Parish Hall. It may have been the infant school in Bourke Crescent, for which Watts and Durran called tenders on 1 September, 1892, or possibly the extension of the then Sunday School on the same site, for which tenders were called by Laird and Barlow on 2 March, 1896. It has been used at its present location (since being moved there from its second location on the western side of Normanby Street in c.1930) as a club house for youth and a meeting centre.

Louis Reginald Williams was a prominent Melbourne architect between the early 1890s to c1961. During this time he designed church buildings including halls, schools and vicarages for the Anglican, Methodist and Catholic Churches and the Freemasons in Tasmania, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria. He was in partnership with Alexander North from c1913 to 1939.

Other Arts and Crafts Gothic churches by Williams are:

- St. George's Anglican Church, 55 Lucknow Street, Ascot Vale, 1925-26;
- St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 22-24 Merton Street, Darebin, 1926-27;
- All Saint's Anglican Church, Dunolly Road, Emu, 1934;

Other Churches by Williams include:

- West Wyalong Anglican Church;
- Trinity College Chapel, University of Melbourne (in partnership with Alexander North);
- Meredith Anglican Church (in partnership with North);
- Point Lonsdale Anglican Church (in partnership with North);

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Description

The St. Matthew's Anglican Church, 230 McKillop Street, East Geelong, is set on a large corner allotment at the south-east corner of McKillop and Normanby Streets. The Church building is situated on the north-west corner of the allotment, with a renovated hall extension to the east, between the Church and the former single storey timber Church parsonage. There is also a small gabled hall fronting McKillop Street, to the east of the Church building, and another relocated gabled hall at the rear (south) fronting Normanby Street. Behind this hall are asphalt tennis courts.

Church building

The unpainted brick, interwar Arts and Crafts Gothic styled church building is characterised by a predominantly cruciform plan illustrated by the steeply-pitched gable that traverses the site, jettied jerkin-head roof form that projects towards the west and the hipped roof form that projects to the east. The building is also especially characterised by the small projecting porch gable fronting Normanby Street, and the heavy buttressed tower with a parapet. The roof forms are clad in early terra cotta tiles, and the small porch gable fronting Normanby Street is punctuated by small corner piers.

Other early features of the design include the pointed unpainted brick, diagonally oriented buttresses along the side, and the heavy corner piers at the northern end which have early incised panelling. The pointed leadlight windows along the side elevations of the main gable, accentuated by red brick surrounds, are also early, as are the pointed tripartite window (with label moulds above) and the stylised rose window (with rendered cement surrounds and tracery) under the projecting jerkin-head roof. Further early features include the narrow vertical ventilation openings in the tower and the incised brick porch door opening (with label mould above) and double timber doors, and the flat-roofed porch that projects from the south-east corner.

The parapeted brown brick porch on the north facade - with its projecting piers, leadlighted rectangular windows, concrete steps and large door opening having a cantilevered verandah above - has been introduced but appears to largely follow the original design.

Internally, there are also some notable features. These features include the furniture that was gifted by the parishioners, sanctuary furniture built in 1917 and originally used in the early timber church, pulpit that has its roots with the original Church at the corner of Fitzroy and Matthew Streets and is a memorial to a member of the congregation killed at Gallipoli, and the peace memorial pipe organ introduced in 1952.

Hall Extension

The single storey hall extension to the east of the main Church building is characterised by a broad gable roof form, together with a verandah gable that projects towards the rear (south) and an early gable and porch gable that project to the north. These roof forms are clad in galvanised corrugated steel, and have horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding. Other features of the building include the pointed timber verandah arcade on the north facade, timber gable ventilator and finials, timber framed leadlight windows on the north gable, decorative timber window hoods on the northern gables, small gablet that projects towards the north on the main roof, and the pointed timber framed windows and doors.

Small Hall

The small hall structure to the east of the main Church building is characterised by a simple gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel. The building has early horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, modest eaves, galvanised steel ventilation stacks, timber framed and three paned casement windows, timber framed doorway and the timber finial.

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Statement of Cultural Significance

The St. Matthew's Anglican Church complex, 230 McKillop Street, East Geelong, has significance for its associations with the development of the Anglican Church in East Geelong in the early 20th century, and especially for its intact and distinguished interwar Arts and Crafts Gothic styled Church building. Built in 1928 to a design by the well-known Melbourne Louis Williams, this building appears to be in good condition when viewed from the street.

The St. Matthew's Anglican Church at 230 McKillop Street is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level. It demonstrates original design qualities of an interwar Arts and Crafts Gothic style. These qualities include the predominantly cruciform plan illustrated by the steeply-pitched gable that traverses the site, jettied jerkin-head roof form that projects towards the west and the hipped roof form that projects to the east. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the unpainted brick wall construction, terra cotta tile roof cladding, small projecting porch gable fronting Normanby Street with punctuated corner piers, heavy diagonally-buttressed tower with parapet, pointed unpainted brick buttresses along the side, heavy corner piers at the northern end with incised panelling, pointed leadlight windows along the side elevations of the main gable (accentuated by red brick surrounds), pointed tripartite window (with label moulds above) and the stylised rose window (with rendered cement surrounds and tracery) under the projecting jerkin-head roof, narrow vertical ventilation openings in the tower, incised brick porch door opening (with label mould above), double timber doors, and the flat-roofed porch that projects from the south-east corner, and the parapeted brown brick porch on the north facade with its projecting piers, leadlighted rectangular windows, concrete steps and large door opening. Internally the furniture, sanctuary furniture, memorial pulpit and peace memorial pipe organ also contribute to the significance of the place. The small hall to the east of the main Church building, and the projecting gables of the renovated hall/extension further contribute to the significance of the place.

The St. Matthew's Anglican Church at 230 McKillop Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level. It is associated with the development of the Anglican Church in East Geelong from 1928. The Church building also has associations with Louis Williams, prominent Melbourne architect of numerous early 20th century Anglican, Methodist and Catholic churches.

The St. Matthew's Anglican Church complex at 230 McKillop Street is socially significant at a LOCAL level. It is recognised and highly valued by sections of the East Geelong community for religious reasons.

Overall, the St. Matthew's Anglican Church complex at 230 McKillop Street is of LOCAL significance.

References

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