

BELLARINE HERITAGE STUDY RECORD SHEET

Site No.	Street/Site Name	Town / Suburb	Postcode	Record No.	89
Address	39 Wyndham St	Drysdale	3222	Page No.	1 of 4
Site Name	St. Thomas' Catholic Church				

Key Dates: Original Major Changes

Existing Use/Type

Precinct Name

Survey Date

Neg. No.

Video Track No.

Recorded By



Heritage Status:

CATEGORY REGISTRATION NUMBER

National Estate:

Nominated

Registered

Historic Buildings Register

Nominated

Registered

National Trust Register:

Planning Scheme:

Historical Archaeological Register :

Other:

BHS Degree of Significance

A B C D

Condition of the fabric:

Excellent Good

Fair Poor

Ruinous Unexposed

Integrity of the site:

Excellent Good

Fair Poor

Partially excavated

Fully excavated

Present Threats:

Human; mining

Human; visitor erosion

Human; vandalism

Human; development

Human; conservation/maintenance

Human; stock

Natural Forces; erosion

Natural Forces; vegetation

Not threatened

Significant Architectural Features:

Original Materials

Original Chimneys

Wall Decoration

Verandah Structure

Verandah Decoration

Original Parapet

other prominent elevations

Original Roof

Original Openings

Original Decoration

Original Finish

Early Garden

Early Fence

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Site Plan/ Location Sketch 	Not To Scale 	Australian Map Grid Co-ordinates E 286850 N 5772030 Map Melways map 238 Scale 1: 20,000
Access Wyndham St gate access		Informants

Ownership: <input type="checkbox"/> Crown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Resident owner <input type="checkbox"/> Occupier only Local Govt Area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Greater Geelong	Cadastral Location: County Grant Parish Bellarine Allotment Sec 2, C/A's 6, Pt 7, 7A Block
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Physical Description of Site:

St Thomas' is situated on a large block, with a wire fence on the Wyndham St boundary, and accessed through a iron gate with the rising sun motif. The light green painted brick building has a steep pitch gable roof, clad in slate, with triangular roof ventilators, and parapet gable ends.

The east elevation has five rectangular windows, with timber pointed arch motif fenestration, and quoinwork picked out in dark green paint. The building has buttresses, the corner one angled, and a bluestone plinth. The east elevation has a small gabled slate clad roof porch, with angled buttresses, a single window, a north facing door, and a cross at the apex of the gable parapet .

The north elevation has a large gabled entrance porch with across at the apex. It features a pointed arch motif window, a slate clad roof, and double timber doors facing east. The north elevation shows the main gable roof parapet, with a cross at the apex, and a small wall louvered vent as cable decoration.

Relevant Special Interest Groups:

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Types of Sites:

<input type="checkbox"/> monument	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime	<input type="checkbox"/> tree(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> machinery
<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> relic/ruin	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building
<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> residential	<input type="checkbox"/> fence	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> miscellaneous
<input type="checkbox"/> recreational	<input type="checkbox"/> infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> gate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	

Historical Themes:

Early Settlement	<input type="text"/>	Communities	cmChurches
Maritime	<input type="text"/>	Landscapes	<input type="text"/>
Tourism	<input type="text"/>	The Wider World	<input type="text"/>
Workforce	<input type="text"/>	Cultural Activity	<input type="text"/>
Townships	<input type="text"/>	Miscellaneous	<input type="text"/>

History of Site/Object/Place:

Catholics in Drysdale began a school for their children in 1853 which was known as Indented Head. Two years later a permanent structure replaced the "large canvas tent" that was being used.(1) A building described as a 'church-cum-school' was erected on a two acre site in Wyndham Street in 1855-6. The builders were Simmie and McLachlan and the designer was R.S. Dowden. The design incorporated a granite base with brick walls and slate roof.(2)

The opening of the building in January 1856 was attended by the Right Reverend Dr. Goold and other members of the Diocesan College, Melbourne at a large gathering. The building housed both the church as St. Thomas's and the school called St. Joseph's.(3)

In 1873 tenders were called for extensions at the south end of the church adding a chancel, transept and vestry and in 1878 a 143 pound bell was installed in time for Christmas services.(4)

The two acre site has housed a hall built in 1904 and a presbytery in 1917 to make a Catholic precinct. A new hall was built in 1946.

References:

1. Wynd, I.(1988) *Balla-wein a history of the Shire of Bellarine* p.61
2. Hill. R. *Catholic Life on the Bellarine Peninsula* p.5
3. Hill., *ibid.*, p.6
4. Wynd *ibid.*, p.64

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Statement of Cultural Significance:

St Thomas' Catholic Church building was opened in 1856 when it housed the Church and St Joseph's School. It was designed by architect R S Dowden and built by Simmie and McLachlan. Extensions were made in 1873 and the bell installed in 1878. The place has contained a Hall and a Presbytery. The Church is a steeply pitched gable slate roof brick building with quoinwork, buttresses and pointed arch windows on a bluestone plinth.

St Thomas' Catholic Church has aesthetic, historic and social value to the Drysdale district.

St Thomas' Catholic Church was designed in a simple gothic idiom and the interesting details give it good visual qualities. It has been associated with the Catholic community in the Drysdale district continuously since 1856. It is part of a group of religious buildings that have been developed over many years since the 1850s. It is a substantial church building for the Bellarine Peninsula, and indicative of the strength and aspirations of the Catholic community in the early period of development.

It is of LOCAL cultural significance.

Additional Information