

BELLARINE HERITAGE STUDY RECORD SHEET

Site No.	Street/Site Name	Town / Suburb	Postcode	Record No.
Address 1030	Portarlinton Rd	Curlewis	3222	33
Site Name				Page No.
St Francis Xavier Catholic Church				1 of 4

Key Dates:	Original	1873	Major Changes
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Existing Use/Type
Church

Precinct Name

Survey Date
12/1/1996

Neg. No.
12/14

Video Track No.

Recorded By
RL/KF



Heritage Status:

CATEGORY REGISTRATION NUMBER

National Estate:

Nominated	
Registered	

Historic Buildings Register

Nominated	
Registered	

National Trust Register:

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Planning Scheme:

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Historical Archaeological Register :

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Other:

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BHS Degree of Significance

<input type="checkbox"/> A	<input type="checkbox"/> B	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C	<input type="checkbox"/> D
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Condition of the fabric:

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
<input type="checkbox"/> Ruinous	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed

Integrity of the site:

<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good
<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor
<input type="checkbox"/> Partially excavated	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fully excavated	

Present Threats:


<input type="checkbox"/> Human; mining
<input type="checkbox"/> Human; visitor erosion
<input type="checkbox"/> Human; vandalism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Human; development
<input type="checkbox"/> Human; conservation/maintenance
<input type="checkbox"/> Human; stock
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Forces; erosion
<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Forces; vegetation
<input type="checkbox"/> Not threatened

Significant Architectural Features:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Materials
<input type="checkbox"/> Original Chimneys
<input type="checkbox"/> Wall Decoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Verandah Structure
<input type="checkbox"/> Verandah Decoration
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Parapet
<input type="checkbox"/> other prominent elevations

Original Roof	form & finish
Original Openings	doors & windows
Original Decoration	roof, gable & eaves
Original Finish	
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Garden	
<input type="checkbox"/> Early Fence	

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Site Address No. 1030 Street/Site name Portarlington Rd	Town / Suburb Curlewis 3222	Record No. 33 Page No. 2 of 4
Site Plan/ Location Sketch Not To Scale 		Australian Map Grid Co-ordinates <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin-bottom: 5px;">E 280580 N 5771150</div> Map DSM Leopold 7721-1 SE Scale 1: 25,000
Ownership: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Crown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resident owner <input type="checkbox"/> Occupier only </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Local Govt Area <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Greater Geelong </div>		Cadastral Location: County Grant Parish Moolap Allotment Sec 1 Pt C/A 9A Lot 7A Block
Physical Description of Site: <p>A relatively intact steeply gabled slate roof, Decorated Gothic church c.1870 built in brick and later cement rendered. It has diamond paned leadlight east and west windows of three and four lights respectively, and an octagonal belfry to the south-west. The front porch has a slate roof and interior timber panelling to a metre and a half. Both the porch and the church have timber ceilings. There is a small rear room and the building is surrounded by large cypress trees.</p> <p>The knotted pine floorboards are believed to be original. (1)</p> <p>(1) Myrtle Filbay</p>		
Relevant Special Interest Groups:		

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Types of Sites:

<input type="checkbox"/> monument	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime	<input checked="" 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	esReligious	Communities	cmChurches
Maritime		Landscapes	
Tourism		The Wider World	
Workforce		Cultural Activity	
Townships		Miscellaneous	

History of Site/Object/Place:

The strength of Catholicism in the Curlewis area is illustrated by the early opening of a school for the predominantly Catholic community in the 1850s. As in many areas church services and school classes were frequently held in the one building until the community was well enough established to build a separate place of worship.(1)

St Francis Xavier church was built next to the Catholic school and opened in October 1873. A Pontifical High Mass sung by Bishop Goold was performed at the opening and this was followed by a sermon from Father Joseph Campett. The bell and belfry were added in 1878(2) and severe damage to the steeple occurred in 1912 after "a period of rough weather".(3)

This church represents the last remnant of an active agricultural community that did not develop into a formal township. The church and school were the centre of the rural community where many social as well as religious functions were held.(4)

Since a new church Lumen Christi has been built in 1980 at Leopold, St Francis Xavier has been virtually unused.(5)

Further research is necessary.

References:

- Hill, R. *Catholic Life on the Bellarine Peninsula*. p. 5.
- Wynd, I (1988) *Balla-wein. A History of the Shire of Bellarine* p. 101
- Hill, R., op.cit., p.6
- Wynd, I op.cit., pp.101-2
- ibid., p.166

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Statement of Cultural Significance:

St Francis Xavier Catholic Church, built beside the (now demolished) Catholic school, was opened in 1873 and the octagonal belfry was added in 1878. It is a steeply gabled slate roof Decorated Gothic structure of rendered brick with diamond paned leadlight windows and interior timber panelling.

St Francis Xavier Catholic Church has aesthetic, historic and social value to the Curlewis district community.

This well proportioned Decorated Gothic church with good integrity is surrounded by cypress trees. The church and its setting demonstrate important picturesque visual qualities. The establishment of the Catholic school and St Francis Xavier Catholic Church together illustrates the strength of Catholicism in the area. The Church, which was in continuous use for over 100 years, has had a major religious and social association with the rural Curlewis community since 1873. It is the sole remnant of the once active agricultural community which existed at Curlewis.

It is of LOCAL cultural significance.

Additional Information