

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

500 Burwood Road

TYPE

- ☐ Single Residence ☐ Multiple Unit Res.
☐ Shop ☐ Outbuildings
☐ Office ☐ Industrial Building
☐ Landscape feature ☐ Public building
☐ View ☒ Other Church.

TITLE

former Augustine Congregational Church

EXISTING DESIGNATION

HBR ☐ GBR ☐ AHC ☐ NT ☐ VAS ☐

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1 ☐ 2 ☒ 3 ☐
 SIGNIFICANT ☐ SIGNIFICANT ☐
 STREET TREES KERB & GUTTERS

GRADING

A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐
 KEYNOTE BUILDING ☐

RECOMMENDED FOR

HBR/GBR ☒ AHC ☒ URBAN CONSERVATION AREA ☒
 VAS ☐ PLANNING SCHEME PROTECTION ☒
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ☐ OTHER ☒ *significant tree*

SURVEY DATE June 91.

NEG FILE 04.

Title
Vol.
Fol.

THEME

- ☐ Early Settlement
☐ Mansions
☐ Victorian Garden Suburb
☒ Municipal dev.
☐ 1870s growth
☐ Garden villas
☐ Working enclaves
☒ Commercial Centres
☐ Edwardian Prosperity
☐ Interwar Housing
☐ Flats and Offices

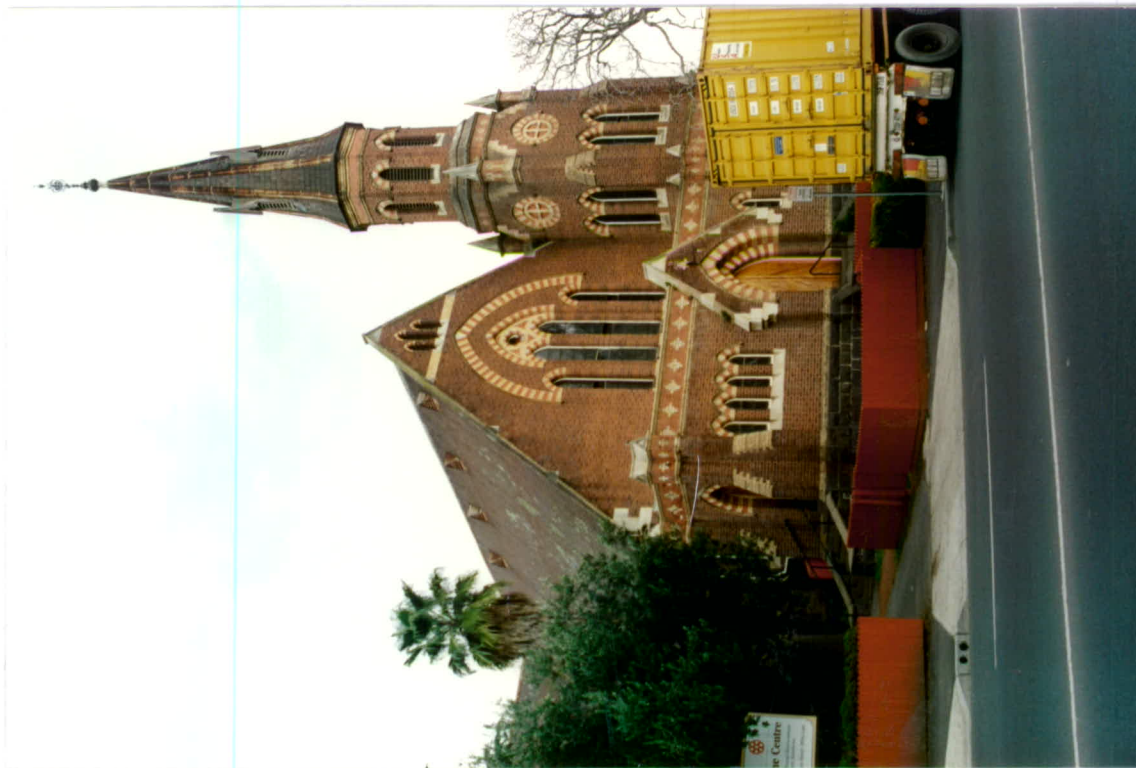
CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Date 1880-1881.

Architect James Wood.

Builder

Elements



- ☐ Contributing garden ☐ Original or early hard landscape layout
☒ Landmark tree (palm) ☐ Original or early fence

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See Butler, Upper Hawthorn Study and additional history. See also Hall in Minona Street.
 See attached

INTEGRITY Good ☒
 Fair ☐
 Poor ☐

CONDITION Good ☒
 Fair ☐
 Poor ☐

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden ☐

500 BURWOOD ROAD

FORMER AUGUSTINE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

History

The former Augustine Congregational Church (now the Pilgrim Puppet Theatre) was built in 1880-81 from the designs of the architect, James Wood.⁵¹ It replaced an earlier, more modest Congregational Church on the opposite side of Burwood Road, handed over to the Baptist Church in 1888.⁵²

The Congregational Church has associations with the early history of Hawthorn. First meetings of Congregationalists were held in 1852 in John Collings house.⁵³ Collings, a farmer from West Malling in Kent, is believed to be the first owner of Auburn House at 4 Goodall Street, which was extended circa 1856 for Robert Hepburn.⁵⁴ A common polity and principles made it possible for Baptists and Congregationalists to co-operate in forming Union Churches in a few instances in colonial Victoria. Members of the two denominations formed such a church in Hawthorn in 1858. This congregation continued until 1864 when the Congregationalists formed a separate fellowship and built their own church.⁵⁵ Designed in 1866 by the architect, Peter Matthews,⁵⁶ this building was handed over to the Baptist Church after the formation of a Baptist Congregation in Hawthorn in 1888. It was enlarged by the Baptists in 1890.⁵⁷

A second, larger Congregational church, known as the Augustine Congregational Church, was built at 500 Burwood Road in 1880-81. This new building, designed by James Wood,⁵⁸ had a transept added in 1886. From the start, it attracted a congregation of influential local residents. These included Robert Cochrane (Chairman of Directors, Brooks Robinson Pty. Ltd.), Sir William McPherson and George Swinburne, MLA. The church played an important role in the establishment of Hawthorn College (now the Augustine Church Centre) in Minona Street in 1890. In 1896 the property was in the names of the Congregational Church trustees, John Collings, William Cowper and George Conti.⁵⁹

⁵¹. ABCN 1. Nov. 1880 (92); *Argus* 14 Jan. 1991 (tender for painting and varnishing).

⁵². Ibid. 8 Oct. 1866 (3); Ibid. 21 Sept. 1866 (3); Rev. F.J. Wilkin, *Baptists in Victoria. Our First Century*, Melb., 1939, pp. 129-130; Gwen McWilliam, *Hawthorn Peppercorns*, Melb., 1978, p.70.

⁵³. Graeme Butler, *Upper Hawthorn. Commercial Area Conservation Study*, 1983, p.74; *Weekly Times* 4 Oct. 1902.

⁵⁴. Ibid; National Trust File No. 952.

⁵⁵. Walter Phillips, "The Denominations", in *Victorian Churches*, ed. Miles Lewis, National Trust, 1991, p.11.

⁵⁶. Seen footnote 2.

⁵⁷. Ibid.

⁵⁸. See footnote 1.

⁵⁹. Butler, pp.74, 167.

500 Buwood Road continued

The first pastor of the Augustine Congregational Church was the Rev. Alexander Gosman, who arrived in Melbourne from Scotland in 1861. His first colonial charge was in Ballarat. He then went to St. Kilda until the end of 1877. Gosman became pastor of the Hawthorn Congregationalists in 1878. A president of the Anti-Sweating League, Gosman retired from his position as pastor of the Hawthorn Church in 1905, fifty years after his ordination.⁶⁰

Additional Historical Significance not identified by Butler in attachment.

This building has historical significance as the religious centre for an influential part of the Hawthorn community from an early date, and for its links with the former Hawthorn College at the rear in Minona Street, a notable local educational establishment. The Augustine Congregational Church has significance, also, for its associations with a number of important local residents, who played major roles in Victoria's early development. These included Robert Cochrane (Chairman of Directors, Brooks Robinson Pty. Ltd.), Sir William McPherson and George Swinburne, MLA. Its first pastor, the Rev. Alexander Gosman, through his position as president of the Anti-Sweating League, was involved in Victoria's factory reform movement.



⁶⁰. Ibid.

LOCATION: AUGUSTINE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
500 BURWOOD ROAD
MMPS ZONE: Residential C
BUILT: 1880-1

HISTORY - The Augustine Congregational Church was designed by architect James Wood, in 1880, and built in a prominent position on land excised from the homestead block of the Liddiard Estate. It was subdivided by Sir Charles Gavan Duffy c1873 and left in the hands of Bellin and Wilkinson until acquired by the church c1880.¹

Travellers along Burwood Road would have had an almost uninterrupted view of the church during the 1880s from near Launder Street and from Auburn Road. The only house close to the road then, was George Palmer's; (later Dr. McMullen's) and later a little group of buildings around the Zion Baptist Chapel.² Under the Rev. Gosman, the church had a congregation of influential local residents, including Robert Cochrane (chairman of directors, Brooks, Robinson Pty. Ltd.)³, Sir William McPherson and George Swinburne MLA. It was behind the establishment of the Hawthorn College, and the local Free Kindergarten.⁴

Reverend Alexander Gosman came to Hawthorn in 1878, living in Burwood Road next to the Tower Hotel for some years. He arrived in Melbourne from Scotland in 1861 and his first colonial charge was in Ballarat. He was in St. Kilda until the end of 1877 then became pastor of the Augustinian Church, Hawthorn.

Since then, due to his efforts, a ..'new and handsome church has been erected and subsequently enlarged and a new Sunday-School, with classrooms attached, is at present in the course of erection.⁵

Previously the church had assembled in John Collings' house, then at a building on the site of the Baptist Church opposite in Burwood Road. The present building was built in 1880-1 with a transept added in 1886.⁶ Gosman, who was president of the Anti-Sweating League, retired from his position here in 1905, 50 years after his ordination.⁷

DESCRIPTION - French Gothic in character (Saint-Leger, Guebuiller, 12th Century) this polychrome brick and slated gable-roof, cruciform-planned church possesses a low narthex, which screens the major facade gable and is in turn penetrated by a gabled entrance. A four-light main window group is set in the main gable above the narthex and a corner-buttressed tower with octagonal belfry and flared spire is placed asymmetrically at the north-west corner. Red and cream voussoirs delineate the major window group, its central paired lights, all single windows and belfry vents. Pinnacles adorn the buttresses to both the tower and the church and cream brick quatrafoils and parapet cappings enhance and delineate the wall surfaces.

Mature and notable elements remain in the garden: these include a Himalayan Cedar, Pepper Trees, a Washington Palm and basalt rockeries.

LOCATION: AUGUSTINE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

DESCRIPTION - (Cont'd.)

Comparable polychrome asymmetrically composed churches include the Presbyterian Union Memorial Church, Curzon Street, North Melbourne (1877); St. Judes, Carlton (1866-70) and the Toorak Presbyterian Church (1875-6).

INTEGRITY - A scalloped profile, timber picket fence is gone from the frontage and pipe balustrading has been added to the stair.

STREETSCAPE - Isolated in the Burwood Road streetscape, relating to the former Hawthorn College at the rear in Minona Street.

SIGNIFICANCE - Architecturally: an original and successfully designed Gothic Revival church, towered and composed asymmetrically and thus, of a small form group within this style, this example is among the best designs: of State importance.

Historically: the religious centre, from an early date, of an influential part of Hawthorn's community and linked with the former Hawthorn College as two notable institutions in the study area: of local importance.

ENHANCEMENT - Maintain major garden elements; consider restoring front fence as 1902 photograph. (HHS, 374).

REFERENCES: (Abbreviations Key: Appendix 5)

1. The Argus, 19.7.80;
Sutherland, p.538;
AEBN -.11.1880 p.92;
HBI
2. Hepburn Hill Estate Plan 1885 (HHS)
3. The Age, 4.3.1935 obit;
4. Robert Cochrane Kindergarten Committee Minutes;
Maynard Davies, Beyond My Grasp. (Alpha Books 1978) p.9.
HBI
5. Sutherland, p.476
6. Davies, op. cit. p.75;
The Weekly Times 4.10.1902;
BS 8.10.86
7. Weekly Time 15.7.1905



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