

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

St. Columb Street

TYPE

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

TITLE

St. Columbs Church and hall at

446 Burwood Road

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 02.25, 26, 27, 28

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 1882-1883.

Architect Various

Builder see opposite.

Elements:
 Brick hall, bluestone church,
 Manse (Burwood Road),
 red brick hall.

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

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See Butler, Upper Hawthorn Study
 See attached

See also manse and Sunday school in Burwood Road.

INTEGRITY Good ☒ (to 1936) CONDITION Good ☒
 Fair ☐ Fair ☐
 Poor ☐ Poor ☐

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden ☐

Date: 1882-1883

Architect: George Wharton/
 James Anderson.
 (see below)

1887-1888 Sunday school hall.

1907 Church completed
 H. Wand F. B. Tompkins.

1916 Additions (church)
 Gawler and Drummond

1936 South transept
 completed.

1938/40 Additions to parish hall

ST. COLUMB'S STREET

ST. COLUMB'S CHURCH AND HALL

Additional History

In response to a considerable increase in Hawthorn's population in the post-railway era, a new Anglican Church, St. Columb's was built in 1882-83 from the designs of the notable Melbourne architect, George Wharton.¹ The construction of this church was associated with the opening in 1882 of new railway stations at Glenferrie and Auburn Roads. The site of St. Columb's was purchased by the Anglican Church from the Launder Estate in 1881-82. The building did not exactly follow Wharton's original scheme, which was considered too costly, and was scaled down by James Anderson.² It was opened in February 1883 when it was described as constructed of bluestone with Tasmanian Freestone dressings. The total cost was 3,500 pounds.³ Wharton called tenders for an additional nave and two transepts in August 1883⁴ and wooden additions to the church in April 1884.⁵

A Sunday School Hall, also designed by Wharton, was built in 1887-88 at 448 Burwood Road. Standing in front of the church, this red brick building faced Burwood Road.⁶

St. Columb's has been extended many times, although it has never gained the tower Wharton depicted in his original sketch.⁷ There were additions in 1907 designed by H.W. and F.B. Tompkins, and in 1916 by Gawler and Drummond. In 1936 the South Transept was completed by the latter firm. There were additions to the Parish Hall in 1938 and 1940, also designed by Gawler and Drummond.⁸

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1. *Argus* 7 Nov. 1881 (3); Ibid. 18 Aug. 1882 (2) - tender for paving and plastering; Ibid. 5 Aug. 1883 (3).
 2. Graeme Butler, *Upper Hawthorn*, Commercial Area Conservation Study, 1983, p.186.
 3. *Argus* 9 Feb. 1883 (7).
 4. Ibid. 5 Aug. 1883 (3).
 5. Ibid. 20 April, 1884 (2).
 6. Ibid. 18 May, 1887 (3).
 7. *Australasian Sketcher* 29 July 1882. Titled as a building in course of erection, the illustration showed Wharton's original design with the tower; Jane Carolan, "History of St. Columb's Hawthorn. 1883-1983"; Butler Study, p.188.
 8. Miles Lewis, *Australian Architectural Index*.

LOCATION: ST. COLUMB'S ANGLICAN CHURCH AND HALL
ST. COLUMB'S STREET

MMPS ZONE:

BUILT: Church 1883, Hall 1887

(1888?)

HISTORY - In 1882, it was announced that the rapid progress of Hawthorn had resulted in an increase in Church of England residents, for whom Christ Church (near the river) was not large enough. Hence a new church to be designed by George Wharton, was proposed equidistant from Holy Trinity, Kew Street, John's, Camberwell and Christ Church. The Church of England bought land on an unnamed road between Burwood Road and Oxley Road from the Launder Estate in 1881-2,² and the church was built on open paddocks.

Architect, George Wharton's scheme was too costly, so James Anderson scaled it down and the contract for the building was let.³ The church has been extended several times over the years, but it never gained the tower Wharton had designed for it originally.⁴

In July 1888, the new Sunday School hall was built in front of the church, facing Burwood Road and entered in the ratebooks in the names of church trustees Edward Cropper, William N. Morton and Edward Cooper.

The new facilities led to a 'proliferation of clubs and social activities' including an Annual Floral and Art Exhibition, branches of the Ramblers and Sketchers Clubs as well as Girls Friendly Societies, Ladies Guilds and regular church services which overflowed into the new hall, at the turn of the century.⁵ The church was consecrated in 1905.⁶

DESCRIPTION - In the manner of Early English Gothic parish churches, St. Columb's Church is generally cruciform in plan with nave and side-aisles expressed in the west wing, under traditionally gabled and slated roofs, and between buttressed basalt rubble walls. A gabled porch affords entry from the north but the south equivalent is absent matching the generally incomplete and sequential nature of this elevation. A traceried window in the west elevation, wheel windows in the Trancept and gablets to its corner buttresses provide the only significant ornament.

The hall is also cruciform in plan but of Flemish bonded brickwork with stucco dressings. Clerestory-lit nave and side-aisles are again expressed but a Tudor character is implied here by paired flat-headed openings and stepped label moulds. Slated and gabled roof forms intersect at two-levels, to form the crossed plan, whilst a smaller, contemporary gabled Sunday School forms the third building facing the quadrangle.

LOCATION: ST. COLUMB'S ANGLICAN CHURCH AND HALL

Mature, supporting garden elements include the cypress near the church.

INTEGRITY - Dressings have been painted; the picket fence has been replaced and general landscaping removed; a cross at the church transept apex is gone, as is one finial from the south hall apex; otherwise externally and internally generally original (refer HHS-257A, photograph).

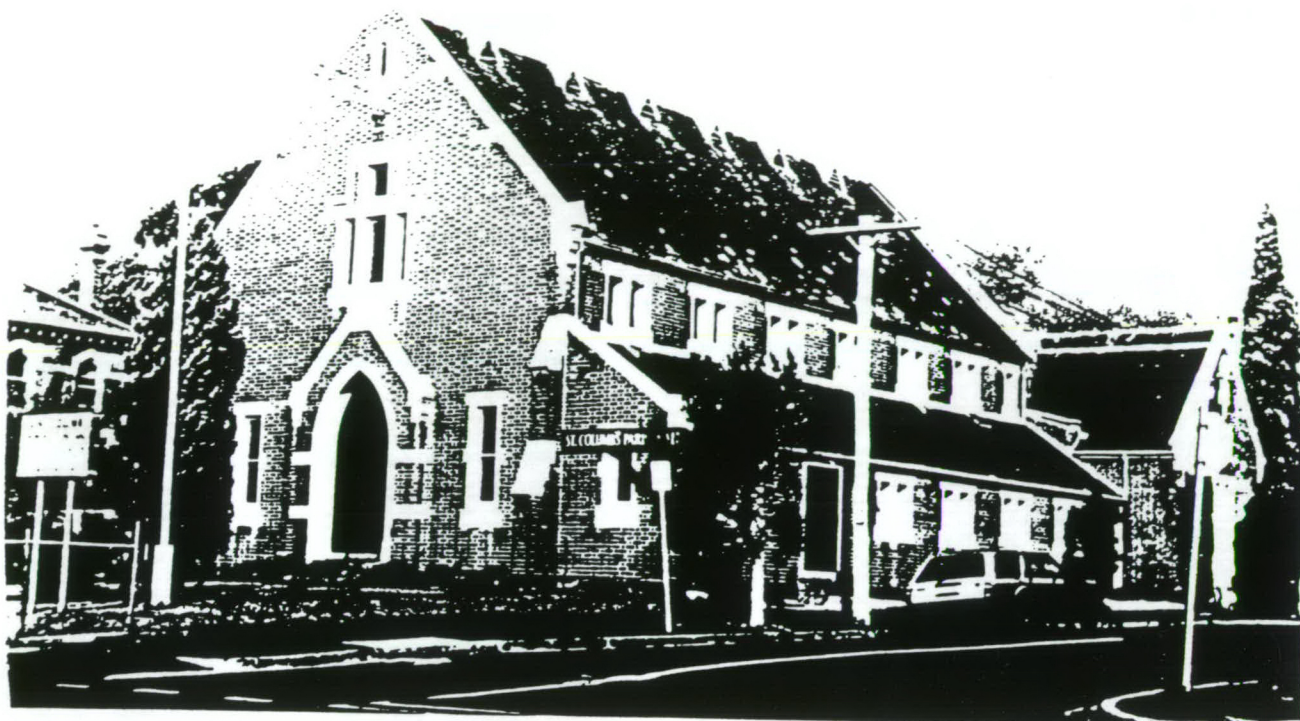
STREETSCAPE - The hall with the vicarage contribute by materials and period detail to the commercial streetscape (3.1).

Whilst the complex as an entity is mutually reinforcing, and a sympathetic period aspect for the residential streetscape (3.3).

SIGNIFICANCE - Architecturally, the hall and church provide a Medieval revival styled complex which is, in part, incomplete and in general of common ecclesiastical form and detail which allows unified contribution to surrounding commercial and residential streetscapes : of regional interest and local importance.

Historically, the complex signifies the post-railway development surge at Hawthorn and has local importance as representative of an old institution in the area.

ENHANCEMENT - Replace details, refence and repaint trim in original or typical manner.



REFERENCES: (Abbreviations Key: Appendix 5)

1. Australasian Sketcher, 29.7.82
2. Private collection subdivision plans, (HHS)
3. Carolan, p.3
4. Carolan, p.23;
Australasian Sketcher, op cit.
5. Carolan, pps. 21-5;
RB 1896-7,
RB 1897-8, 3572
6. Weekly Times, 18.11.1905, p.11



St. Columba Street
St. Columba Church.



St. Columb Street
St Columb Church