

fashionable in Australia. The cast-iron is ornate and complete, being a late 1880s pattern.

External Integrity

The front fence and part of the retaining walls have been added, new flush panel door to 102 and painted bricks on 104.

Streetscape

Although not part of its original design, the row is visually isolated by the later underpass, lending it some prominence. It also corresponds in period to the altered shop and residences on the opposite corner.

Significance

Architecturally, this is a typical late 19th. Century house row distinguished by its detailing and siting. His-

torically, it is of local interest as a speculation by one of the nearby established rural landowners.

St. Monica's Church 1 Whitehall Street

History

Catholic services reputedly began in a tent, continued in a timber structure on this site and, later, were housed in a simple bluestone church school (since demolished?). Fr. Geoghan successfully applied for a grant in 1852, seeking land for a church, residence and school, and obtained a permanent reservation and grant of two acres by 1862. Early trustees of the reserve were Bishop Gould, Rev. M. Downing, James Maher and William Pickett¹.



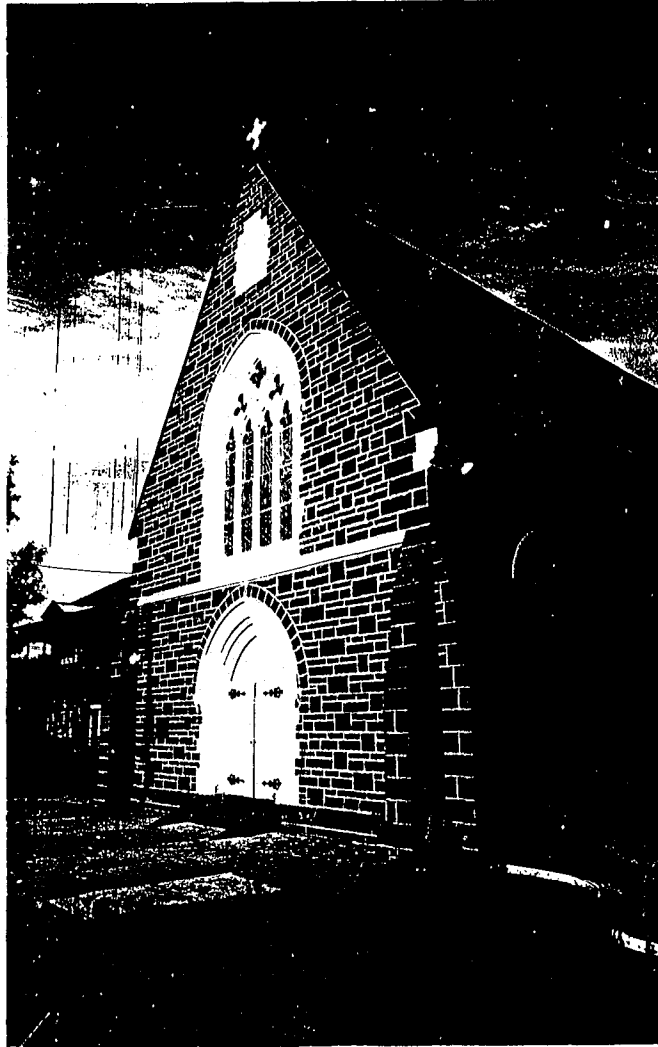
4-111 102-106 Victoria Street

1 Armstrong, *Solemn Centenary Mass*, 1974, p.1f(referenced)

A timber school measuring 20 by 15 feet, was built on the reserve c1853-4, apparently after use of one P. Ryan's house in the interim. A replacement was sought in the late 1850s achieving part of their goal in the form of a church-school containing a porch and nave only (for the congregation), from stone quarried on this site; the connecting chancel (for the clergy) was to be in timber¹. The 1877 Borough plan shows two buildings facing Wingfield Street, being presumably this church-

school and its timber predecessor. A contemporary photograph shows a low gabled coursed random rubble stone building with a low porch and chancel².

At the direction of Dr. McGillicuddy of the Williamstown parish, architect Thomas A. Kelly called tenders for St. Monica's church in Whitehall Street during 1873³; half of the church, including the sanctuary being completed in a 'Fourteenth Century



4-112 Church, 1 Whitehall Street

- 1 ibid.
- 2 op.cit. end paper
- 3 F. St. laid 5.7.73

gothic style' using basalt and Geelong freestone¹. The contractors were Hopkins & Goss² and the work done by May 1874, with stained glass by Ferguson & Urie, the altar by Gaunt of Bourke Street, Melbourne and a nave measuring 33 feet (of the final 80) by 22 feet wide³.

Inspired by Fr. P.B. Walshe, today's structure was completed (without the 108 feet spire and bell tower intended by Kelly) to the design of Tappin Gilbert & Dennehy, in 1885. It cost a total of £2600 and the builder was Richard Grant of Kyneton⁴. William Montgomery's three-light stained-glass altar window (1896), representing the crucifixion, commemorates Fr. Walshe.⁵

An early photograph (c1896) shows the church as a typical Early English Gothic Revival parish church, built of bluestone and encircled by spade-head picket fence with stout corner posts.⁶ Footscray, once part of the Williamstown parish, became a separate mission in 1890, under the Rev. E.J. Kelly. St. Monica's school was erected in the same year, costing over £700 and to the design of Tappin Gilbert & Dennehy.⁷ Four brick classrooms were added to the school in 1908,⁸ and its stone predecessor was demolished.

Four years later, the Sisters of St. Joseph began teaching at the school, replacing the previous lay staff as a general tightening of the church's financial outlay. In the same year the church was renovated and an organ gallery added.⁹ An early view (claimed to be of the school) shows the convent as a large dichrome brick two-storey structure (1894-), with an encircling cast-iron and timber verandah. This was demolished in 1933 for a new convent (George Bailey House), designed by T. Power.

With the erection of the Presbytery, in 1899, the picket fence was extended to Hopkins Street. It accompanied (by c1909) a hedge and further semi-mature landscaping between it and the church.¹⁰ The same

photo shows early municipal tree planting, in tall picket guards, along Whitehall Street (now gone).¹¹

Description

A modest Early English Gothic Revival parish church constructed from coursed random rubble basalt. It compares in Footscray to the Wesleyan and Presbyterian churches but it possesses superior window tracery detailing, carried out in Waurin Ponds sandstone. Instead of the typical foliated bosses on the entry label moulds, the carved heads of Jesus and Mary are used. The west window glazing is not coloured or patterned in contrast to the richly detailed sacristy window.

External Integrity

The boundary timber picket fence has gone and the stone dressings painted over. A Modern style framed covered way links the Church with the residence.

St. Monica's Presbytery 1 Whitehall Street

History

After a false start in 1893, new architects, Reid Smart & Tappin, designed this 'imposing' residence for the Catholic Church and it was blessed by Dean McKenna, March 1899. The builder was R. Duckworth of Yarraville (see also St. Augustine's), the parish priest, Rev. Fr. J. Manly and the cost £2000.¹²

It contained 18 rooms, all fitted with gas lights and electric bells and some of truly gracious proportions; the main four rooms measuring 19 x 16 feet and even the 'back' rooms a generous 15 x 19 feet. The *Advertiser* thought the house to be in 'the most up-to-date style.' An Australian Fair followed in October at the Royal Hall to raise money for the building.¹³

- 1 op.cit. p.4
- 2 ibid.
- 3 op.cit. p.5
- 4 op. cit. p.5; *Argus* 23-9-85/3 (tenders for additions)
- 5 op.cit. p.7; SOFFY p.33f
- 6 ibid.
- 7 BEMJ 7/9/89
- 8 *The Independent* 17/10/08
- 9 FHS
- 10 FFFY p.124
- 11 ibid.
- 12 Armstrong. loc. cit. p.8; *Advertiser* 11/3/99; SOFFY, p.33f
- 13 Armstrong. loc. cit. p.8