

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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<b>Name</b>	Christian Bible Church (Former)	
<b>Address</b>	9 Hollidays Road (former addresses include 13 Hollidays Road Mandurang and also 20 Pentlands Road) MANDURANG	<b>Grading</b> 2008 Local
<b>Building Type</b>	Church	
<b>Assessment by</b>	Context Pty Ltd	




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**Recommended** VHR - HI - PS -  
**Heritage Protection**

### Integrity

Altered

### History and Historical Context

#### History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye

The land around the former Shires of Strathfieldsaye and McIvor had a long history prior to the arrival of Europeans. The Jaara Jaara people are the original inhabitants of the area.

The area around Port Phillip was explored by Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor General of New South Wales, and a large party in 1836, on the homeward leg of a journey to Portland Bay. Impressed by what he perceived as the bounty of the land, Mitchell named the area *Australia Felix*.<sup>[1]</sup>

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The Port Phillip district was opened up for settlement soon thereafter, and much of the land in the Western districts of Victoria, including the former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye, was subsequently dominated by a series of pastoral runs. Most of the area around the town of Axedale and the numerous small towns in its vicinity was licensed to David Jennings as part of the Campaspe Plains run. The run covered an area of more than 144,900 acres and was populated with an estimated 12,000 sheep. A portion of Campaspe Plains was licensed to A. Jennings and George Playne in 1840 and the 67,000 acre station became known as Axedale. In the coming decade the holders of the license changed a number of times. By the time the leasehold over the land was cancelled in 1865, the run had greatly reduced in size.[2]

Following the cancellation of leasehold, land holdings were of a smaller scale and pastoralists were gradually overtaken by farmers. The discovery of gold at Bendigo and the surrounding areas changed the face of the district and brought about new patterns of settlement and expansion. William John Bulling claimed to be the first man to discover gold at McIvor, and he was granted a £400 reward for the find. By 1853, over one hundred prospectors had assembled at Wild Duck Creek in the hopes of striking it rich. This number expanded the following year, and included some 2,000 Chinese immigrants.[3]

The Strathfieldsaye Road District was proclaimed in the Government Gazette on the 12th August 1861, and encompassed within it the parishes of Axedale, Strathfieldsaye, Eppalock, Mandurang, Sedgwick and Lyell.[4] The process of election of the board was punctuated by rivalries between Catholic and Protestant faiths, a characteristic of the district which infiltrates much of its history. Strathfieldsaye met the criterion prescribed to become a Shire in 1863, a transition that was officially proclaimed on the 17th September of that year.[5]

In 1864, Strathfieldsaye Shire was divided into three wards; Mandurang, Strathfieldsaye and Axedale.[6]

## History of Mandurang

The area around Mandurang was initially known as the Sheepwash, so named for its situation on Sheepwash Creek. The township emerged for the provision of services to outerlying farms, and postal services to Melbourne commenced in prior to 1900. By the late 1870s, several vineyards, as well as a steam tannery and ginger beer manufacturing plant were in operation in the vicinity of the town.[7]

By the late 1800s, the citizens of Mandurang had established state schooling facilities, as well as several Churches. Surrounding farmers were largely focussed on the production of hay for the Sandhurst market, though development of new technologies undoubtedly changed the way in which farming was carried out. Mandurang largely avoided the glow of the gold rushes, and was predominantly a farming community well into the 1900s

## History of former Christian Bible Church, 9 Hollidays Road, Mandurang(Previously known as 20 Pentlands Road, 13 Hollidays Road, Mandurang)

The land upon which the Christian Bible Church was built is part of allotment 3 of section 17 in the Parish of Mandurang that was granted by the Crown to James and George Green on the 16th February 1863.[8] The Greens' lands covered an area of just over thirteen acres, and were bounded to the north and east by government roads.

Rate books from 1875 record James Green as the owner of a parcel of 'land near chapel', suggesting that the Christian Bible Church dates from prior to this time.[9] Titles records note that the Greens owned the property until it was sold to Hagan Hannah Green on the 21st January 1892.[10]

It is thought that the Church originally opened in 1863 as a Bible Christian place of worship. This suggests that the Church was constructed on the Greens' private land. It could have been that the Greens were followers of the Bible Christian faith themselves, and sought to establish religious facilities for themselves. Given the relative scarcity of

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subscribers to the Bible Christian faith, especially in rural Victoria, it is not unlikely that the Greens were responsible for the design and construction of the Church on their land. A Sunday school was run from the building by W. Jones and G. Green from soon after its construction.[11] It is thought that this Church is that referred to by Whitworth as a Bible Christian Church in 1879.[12]

The Bible Christian faith was founded by William O'Bryan in Cornwall. Bible Christian churches were strongly represented in Cornwall and Devon, and churches were often built privately. The faith was brought to South Australia by Cornish miners. The Victorian branch of the Bible Christian movement became a separate division by 1860. [13]

The Church was converted to a Methodist place of worship by 1935. By that time Benson noted that the Bendigo circuit is 'rich in traditions bequeathed to it by the Wesleyan, Primitive Methodist and Bible Christian denominations'.[14]

Little is documented on Bible Christian congregation in the Bendigo circuit; however it is known that there were as many as 107 Bible Christian places of worship in Victoria in 1901.[15] The first public worship in the Bendigo Methodist Circuit (then known as Sandhurst) was held from March 1852 near the site of the current Golden Square church.[16] The Bendigo Circuit was divided into three circuits in 1935.[17]

The addition of a small brick vestry was undertaken in 1956. The vestry was 10' by 18' and built adjoining the stone church.[18]

Interestingly, in 2001 the site was identified as the exact geographical centre of Victoria. The church is now owned privately and appears to be currently unoccupied.

[1] Randell, J. O. (1985). *McIvor: A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote*, Shire of McIvor, p. 1.

[2] Spreadborough, Robert and Anderson, Hugh (1983). *Victorian Squatters*, Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale, p. 150.

[3] Spreadborough & Anderson (1983), p. 31.

[4] Hewat, Tim (1983), *Bridge Over Troubled Waters, A History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye*, Shire of Strathfieldsaye, Victoria, pp. 11 - 12.

[5] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 18.

[6] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 107.

[7] Whitworth, Robert P. (1879). *The Victorian Gazeteer and road guide: containing the most recent and accurate information as to every place in the colony*, Melbourne, F. F. Bailliere, p. 287.

[8] Certificate of Title, Vol. 14, Fol. 628.

[9] Shire of Strathfieldsaye Rate Book, 1875.

[10] Certificate of Title, Vol. 14, Fol. 628.

[11] *Mandurang School Centenary Booklet*, (1977), p. 13.

[12] Whitworth, Robert P. (1879), p. 287.

[13] Lewis, Miles (ed),(1991) *Victorian Churches*, National Trust of Australia, Melbourne, p10

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[14] Benson, C. Irving (1935), *A Century of Victorian Methodism*, Spectator Publishing Co, Melbourne, p. 457.

[15] Lewis, Miles (ed) (1991), *Victorian Churches*, National Trust of Australia, Melbourne, p.10

[16] Benson, C.I (ed.)(1935), p. 456.

[17] Benson, C.I (ed.) (1935), p. 457.

[18] Uniting Methodists Church Mandurang, VPRS 7882/P/0001, Unit 001271, Location V/AA/020/03/01, Public Records office of Victoria.

## References

### Primary sources

Certificates of Title

Shire of Strathfieldsaye Rate Books, 1875

### Secondary sources

Benson, C. Irving (1935), *A Century of Victorian Methodism*, Spectator Publishing Co, Melbourne.

Hewat, Tim (1983), *Bridge Over Troubled Waters, A History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye*, Shire of Strathfieldsaye, Victoria,

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*Mandurang School Centenary Booklet*, (1977).

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

8. Building Community Life

8.1 Maintaining spiritual life

## Description

### Physical Description

The former Bible Christian church is designed in the Primitive Gothic style and constructed c. 1863. Elements of the style

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include the use of the gable roof and the pointed arch windows. In this case the windows are formed with brick arches with flat sides rather than the more common curved shape. Red brickwork is used as dressings around all of the windows and doors and as quoining. The roof pitch is relatively low which is often found on chapels and churches of the non-conformist denominations in order to distance themselves from the very steeply pitched Gothic roof of many churches of the established religions.

Variations to the style include whether there is a porch at the end or side, however in this case there is no porch. Variations in building materials are evident across the Bendigo region and the Bible Christian church is constructed from local sandstone laid in random rubble. The bricks provide an easier way of addressing the window details and the quoins, that otherwise require shaping of stones.

The selection of sandstone and red brick would appear to owe a great deal to the Cornish building traditions that were brought to South Australia, in particular to Burra, as this type of construction is rare in the Bendigo district.

The window frames are either damaged or missing and there is no window glass. The bargeboards are detailed with quite intricate cutting, although these may not be the original ones. The pleasing design of this very simple chapel owes much to the use of contrasting materials and to the use of the colourful local stone. There is a skillion roofed extension to the side that has been rather clumsily designed and does not contribute to the architecture of this building. The interior has not been investigated, however it appears that the building is not in use.

## Physical Condition

Fair

## Conservation Policy

### Guidelines (Specific)

None specified

## Statement of Significance

*What is significant?*

The former Bible Christian chapel built c.1863 is significant. The additions to the side are not significant.

*How is it significant?*

The former Bible Christian chapel is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

*Why is it significant?*

The former Bible Christian church is of historic significance for its association with the Bible Christian movement whose origins were in Cornwall and Devon and subsequently brought to Australia by Cornish immigrants to South Australia. Built on land belonging to James Green, the church demonstrates the tradition of building on private land unlike the more dominant churches where land was granted. The church is tangible evidence of the presence of the Bible Christian movement that was later to become a part of the Methodist Church. *Criterion A*

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The former Bible Christian church is of aesthetic significance for its demonstration of the Primitive Gothic style, including the lower pitched roof as demonstrated by many non-conformist churches, and for its use of sandstone walls and brick quoining and dressings in a manner derived from the Cornish buildings of South Australia. As such it is a rare building in the Bendigo district. *Criterion B*

## Recommendations 2008

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	Yes
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

## Other Recommendations

It is recommended that the former Bible Christian Church at 9 Hollidays Road, Mandurang be retained as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme (HO558) with the schedule entry as shown above. The address has been corrected. The extent of registration is Lot 1 TP 849724. The recommended Incorporated Plan is the 'Permit Exemption Incorporated Plan - Former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye.'

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.