

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name	St Stephen's Church		
Address	108 Hargreaves Road EMU CREEK	Grading	2008 Local
Building Type	Church		
Assessment by	Context Pty Ltd		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes
--	--

Designer / Architect	Mauermann, E
-----------------------------	--------------

Architectural Style	Victorian Period (1851-1901) Vernacular
----------------------------	--

Maker / Builder	Unknown
------------------------	---------

Integrity

High

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

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

the land, Mitchell named the area *Australia Felix*.^[1]

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 St Stephens Church, 108 Hargreaves Road, Emu Creek

The original request for land for the St Stephens church site was made in December 1868 by Head Teacher Owen and Mr Lowndes, and in May 1873 the land around the school site was surveyed resulting in a 'one acre site for a church or chapel granted from the Department.'^[7]

On October 19th 1886 discussions regarding the need for the construction of a Church of England was held at Mr Fox's vineyard.^[8] A committee of members including A.R Beetson, J. Cook, G.T Rundle, W.D Dunn and A.W Fox was appointed to facilitate project.^[9]

The second meeting of the committee was held on November 8th. Mr Beetson was appointed Chairman and Mr Fox elected Secretary. It was agreed to make an application for land and to construct the new church out of brick rather than wood as initially planned. On November 2nd 1887 tenders were called for the supply of 30,000 bricks.^[10] The foundation stone was laid at the new site on September 14th 1888 by Rev. Archdeacon MacCullagh, with architect E. Mauermann in attendance to hand the trowel to the Archdeacon. This occasion was said to be very well attended, with over two hundred people being catered for at the tea held in the schoolhouse after the conclusion of the ceremony. The next day's Bendigo Advertiser reported the Rev. Mr Garlick's following words of congratulations:

They had been engaged in a most important duty, as whenever they saw a church it was a symbol of certain truths which had influenced the world's progress for the past 2000 years. Some said that worship could be held in the fields or in barns; but modern life demanded that there should be a proper building for such purpose.^[11]

The same article describes the architect E. Mauermann's plans for the new construction as the following:

...a very neat little edifice 20 feet broad and 36 feet long and with brick walls and buttresses 14 feet high. There are three

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Gothic shaped windows in each side wall. At the front is a porch 8 feet square, and at the rear a vestry 10 feet by 10 feet. The ceiling will be boarded and the walls plastered inside, while the roof will be of corrugated iron. A cross finished the point of each gable.[12]

Emil Mauermann was one of a series of German migrants that influenced the development of architectural practice in and around Bendigo. Mauermann was born in Saxony and emigrated to Australia in 1885. Soon after his arrival he travelled to Bendigo, where he joined architects Vahland and Getzschmann in their practice, as a structural engineer. After bringing his family from Germany to Bendigo in 1889, Mauermann departed Victoria for Western Australia during the depression of the 1890s. Mauermann relinquished his practise in Bendigo in 1896, and it was thereafter taken over by his former pupil, architect F. W. Lehman.[13] One of his more notable buildings was the design of the Bendigo Art Gallery.[14]

On July 31st 1888 tenders were called for the foundations and brickwork of the site and it was decided that the Committee would supply all materials. At the same meeting the quorum confirmed that the new church would be thirty-six feet long, twenty feet wide and with a vestry at the back twelve by ten feet, and a porch at the front that would be eight by six.[15]

Financial problems were an obstacle for the construction being completed, and on November 1st 1888 Mr Fox, a local vigneron, was asked to lend assistance to the fund. It was planned that 'this money to be refunded on him rendering his account to the Church Trust Fund'.[16] Interestingly, Mr Fox declined to attend the next meeting of the Church committee, and subsequently resigned.[17]

Succeeding committee meetings continued to discuss financial matters, with various accounts and costs confirmed, including an architect's estimate of £170 for the construction; carpentry fees of £25, and bricklaying fees of £24.[18] The survey fee was recorded as amounting to £2/7/5, and £4/4/9 was paid for the land at auction. In addition to this, £29/1/0 was paid for bricks, and Mr Fox was paid £4/6 per thousand of the 24,225 bricks to be carted.[19] The bricks were said to have been made at Mr Bruhn's vineyard, using clay from the same site.[20] Other materials used for the construction included timber supplied by local businessman Mr Hume (Hume & Iser), with lime and cement supplied by Mr Holmes.[21] It is also noted that Holmes. C. Bode constructed seven window frames and three doors for the new site.[22]

Various fundraisers, including bazaars, sports days, tea meetings, and lectures were held to raise funds to complete the construction, with an 1892 list showing £73 to have been raised by the bazaar committee[23]. Contributions were also made through donations by local community members and friends of the church. The final cost of the construction was £451.[24]

The church was painted and repaired in 1916. In 1952 stabilising and restoration work was undertaken with 'two substantial iron rods donated by Harry Baker, running the length of the Church were placed in position, also cross bars, and the wooden crosses surmounting the building were replaced'.[25] This work was carried out by John Edwards and Tom McClean at a cost of £28.[26] Repairs were also undertaken in 1975 to the organ and also work on the church interior, including wooden flooring replaced with concrete floor and carpeting, and heating was added.[27] A brick 25 x 20 ft construction was also added to the site in the 1980s along with new toilets.[28]

The site is currently owned the Anglican Church of Australia and is still in use as a Church and Sunday school.

[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.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

- [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] Mitchell, p. 148
- [8] Bendigo Advertiser 8/9/1888 as in Mitchell, p. 148
- [9] Miles, F. (1988), *St Stephens Church Emu Creek: centenary 1888-1988*, Emu Creek, p. 3.
- [10] Miles, F. (1988), p. 3
- [11] The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, September 15, 1888, as cited in Miles, F. (1988), p. 3
- [12] The Bendigo Advertiser, Thursday, September 15, 1888, as cited in Miles, F. (1988), p. 3
- [13] Miles Lewis Architectural Index, State Library of Victoria.
- [14] Miles Lewis Architectural Index, State Library of Victoria.
- [15] Miles, F. (1988), p. 3.
- [16] Miles, F. (1988), p. 3.
- [17] Miles, F. (1988), p. 3.
- [18] Miles, F. (1988), p. 3.
- [19] Miles, F. (1988), p. 4.
- [20] Miles, F. (1988), p. 4.
- [21] Miles, F. (1988), p. 4.
- [22] Miles, F. (1988), p. 4.
- [23] Miles, F. (1988), p. 7.
- [24] Miles, F. (1988), p. 7.
- [25] Miles, F. (1988), p. 10.
- [26] Miles, F. (1988), p. 10.
- [27] Miles, F. (1988), p. 10.

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

[28] Miles, F. (1988), p. 10.

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

8 Building community life

8.1 Maintaining spiritual life

Description

Physical Description

St Stephens Anglican Church at Emu Creek is designed in a domestic vernacular style by the architect E.Mauermann who was one of a number of German architects who worked in Bendigo and surrounding areas. Mauermann is a lesser known architect than Vahland and Getzchmann who were dominant in Bendigo; however it is known that up to seven architects were employed in the offices of Vahland and Getzchmann between 1870 and 1880. Mauermann may have been one of these employees who later began his own practice.

The three bay structure is articulated with buttresses and the square headed, four pane windows are unusual in church design. The gable ends have shaped parapets with restrained but elegant brickwork detailing. A simple cross decorates the front gable. The porch and vestry are designed with hipped roofs and integrate well with the main form of the church. The only concession to the Gothic Revival is the pointed arch to the main entry door. St Stephen's is constructed of local red/orange face brickwork that is unadorned. The church appears to have undergone few changes other than repair and maintenance. There are two other buildings on the site that have been designed in complimentary style but are not of interest.

The interior has undergone some renovation with timber lining to one wall. The interior has a coved ceiling with hammerbeam trusses, partially concealed by the ceiling lining. There is some brick paving to the floor. A Sunday School and kitchen have been constructed in complementary style adjacent to the church.

Physical Condition

Good

Conservation Policy

The following works are recommended to conserve the building:

None specified

Comparative Analysis

St Stephens is an unusual church in the study area, and the only one that is not built in the Gothic revival style.

Statement of Significance

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

What is significant?

St Stephen's Anglican Church including all the 1888 fabric is significant. The toilets and Sunday School hall are not significant.

How is it significant?

St Stephens's Anglican Church is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

St Stephen's Anglican Church at Emu Creek is of historical significance for its association with the Anglican church, in particular Archdeacon MacCullagh of St Paul's Bendigo. St Stephen's is historically significant for its associations with the Fox, Beetson, Rundle, Dunn and Cook families whose efforts to secure land and funds, ensured the construction of the church. *Criterion A*

St Stephens is aesthetically significant as a work of the architect E.Mauermann, and contains some unusual variations in design such as the hipped roof forms of the porch and vestry and the square headed windows. *Criterion B*

St Stephen's is of social significance for the Emu Creek community as a place of continuous worship for over 100 years. *Criterion G*

Assessment Against Criteria

HERCON CRITERIA

Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion A*

Possession of uncommon rare or endangers aspects of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion B*

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion C*

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments. *Criterion D*

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics. *Criterion E*

Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period. *Criterion F*

Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions. *Criterion G*

Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history. *Criterion H*

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Recommendations 2008

External Paint Controls	Yes
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 St Stephen's Anglican Church at 108 Hargreaves Street, Emu Creek be added as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the City of Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme with the schedule entry as shown above. The extent of registration is the whole of the property as defined by the title boundaries. The recommended Incorporated Plan is the 'Permit Exemption Incorporated Plan - Former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye.'