

**LONG GULLY METHODIST CHURCHES
CHURCHES
WILSON STREET, LONG GULLY**

SURVEY DATE: 1991-2

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION REGISTER: R

STUDY GRADING: A

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1865,77

FIRST OWNER : METHODIST CHURCH



CITATION:

History

The first Methodist church at Long Gully was a slab hut. Services were also conducted at times in a Mrs. Manning's cottage and the weatherboard house of Mr. Jonathon Matthews, the first Sunday School Superintendent

of Long Gully.¹ In 1858 a brick building was erected on the site that was later occupied by the Church of England² The Reverend Joseph Dare helped build the church carrying the bricks 'on his own broad back.'³

A new Wesleyan Methodist Church was built by Mr. Patterson in 1865 on this site.⁴ Designed by the architectural firm of Vahland & Getzschmann, the church was enlarged in 1871.⁵

Vahland & Getzschmann were again used as architects when a new church was to be built on the site in 1877, to the west of the old church.⁶ The new church was built by Mr. Patterson (carpentry), Mr. Marks (brickwork) and Manley & Harris (masonry).⁷ An opening service was held in the new church on September 16th, 1877.⁸ A short arcade linked the church with the 1865 church building, which was then used as a Sunday School. A pipe organ, built by Alfred Fuller of Melbourne, was installed in 1882 at a cost of £300.⁹

Tenders were called in 1893 for a new gallery and pulpit and a kindergarten room was added around 1910.¹⁰

Yorkshire and Cornish miners settled in Long Gully and California Gully during the later half of the nineteenth century and the Bendigo Circuit (of which the Long Gully Methodist Church was a part) was the scene of 'great revivals,' as was described in *Methodist History*. The Bendigo Circuit has been noted for its glorious revivals. 'The Cornish miners and the Yorkshiremen there fraternized heart and soul when the good work broke out, and it would take a discriminating observer with a nice ear to decide as to which of them shouted the loudest.'¹¹

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DESCRIPTION

The former Methodist Church and Sunday School, Long Gully, were erected in two stages; the school¹² in 1865 (contractor: Mr. Patterson) and the church in 1877 (contractors: Manley and Harris and Mr. Marks). The architects for both stages were Vahland and Getzschmann. The complex is dominated by the brick church which comprises an aisled nave. The school is a simply conceived buttressed hall at the rear of the church. The two are united by a small arcade.

CONDITION

No significant alterations have been made to the buildings since they were constructed and they appear to be in a sound structural condition.

SIGNIFICANT ASSOCIATIONS

Vahland & Getzschmann, designers.

SIGNIFICANCE

Church is the more notable element of this complex and is an

important and possibly unique example of Gothic Revival in Victoria. It is articulated in a Mannerist style and incorporates a series of features which are made nonsense by the great bulk of the structure and its internal space. These features include fine pinnacles and bell-cote, row of tiny clerestory windows, slender nave columns and unusual tiny porches on the west facade. Zebra polychrome window decoration is also important.

1 *Methodist History*, Vol.2, (Bendigo Circuit), p.11
2 *ibid.*
3 *ibid.*
4 *ibid.*
5 *ibid.*
6 *ibid.*
7 Information given by Mr. Werry in NTA FN.2404
8 *ibid.*
9 *ibid.*
10 *ibid.*; Butcher, M. & Flanders, G., *Bendigo Historic Buildings*, 1987, p.104
11 *Methodist History*, Vol.2, Bendigo Circuit, p.11 in NTA FN.2404
12 originally a church