
ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, PRESBYTERY AND STABLES



East elevation of St Patrick's, with presbytery visible at rear.



St Patrick's, north and west elevations.



East elevation of the presbytery.



East elevation of the stables, with the verandah of the presbytery at right.

Location

53 HIGH STREET, AND 31 CATHCART STREET, MARONG - PROPERTY NUMBERS 202243,218360, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO566

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 24, 2023

What is significant?

St Patrick's Catholic Church (1877) is located on a deep, broad site running east-west between Cathcart and High streets, Marong. It is a small Gothic Revival stuccoed church with a gabled roof, porch to the east end and a sanctuary and vestry to the west end. There is a cross at the top of each gable end, and another over the porch; windows and doorways are lancet arched and the gable ends have oculus windows and motifs. The nave has five bays, expressed externally by two-step side buttresses, and gable roof vents. The nave corners each have angled buttresses intersecting just below the gable kneelers. A corbelled effect is gained from stubby *cyma recta* moulds jutting out between the upper buttress insets and the kneeler elevations. The nave, porch and vestry windows are all original timber-framed double-hung sashes of similar size. The substantial church grounds are not formally landscaped.

The presbytery (1905), set back from Cathcart Street behind generous garden with mature palm trees and vestiges of an early garden layout, is a Federation design with a symmetrical gable-hip roof clad in corrugated galvanised steel, with boxed eaves, bracketed on each side by gabled wings, which also frame the return verandah. The latter is bull-nosed and timber-posted with a timber frieze rail supporting a cast iron lace infill and cast iron lace fans. The walls are white tuckpointed red brick with cement-rendered courses at window sill height. There are symmetrical window bays and half timbering to the gable ends. A trailing wing projects from the south-east of the house, terminated by a chimney similar to those in the main house. The majority of the windows sit at the rendered course line and are double-hung timber sashes with clear panes.

The timber framed stables (presumed to date to 1905) at the rear of the site comprise a central three stall stables with loft, carriage room to the south and two roomed quarters, kitchen, laundry and shower alcove to the north. Inside, the mangers, stalls and brick pavement remain. The loading doorway to the loft retains its surmounting beam and gables with decorative brackets. The walls are clad in weatherboard, and the roof is clad in corrugated galvanised steel.

How is it significant?

St Patrick's Catholic Church (1877), presbytery and stables (1905) are of local historical and aesthetic/architectural significance. The church is also of local social significance.

Why is it significant?

St Patrick's Catholic Church (1877) and the presbytery and stables (built 1905) are historically significant (Criterion A). The Catholic faith was well represented in the Marong area by the 1870s, and is presumed to reflect the presence of Irish settlers in the district. The Catholic Church is also an expression of the development of Marong from the 1860s to the 1880s. The presbytery (built in 1905) is significant for its association with both the church and the formation of the Marong Parish following the First Diocesan Synod of December 1901. It provides evidence of the living conditions of the parish priest and, through its substantial size, fine detailing and execution, reflects on the apparent affluence of the parish in this period. Reverend Father J O'Carroll, the first parish priest to take up residence, was well liked and long serving; he is buried at Marong. The stables also contribute to the former ecclesiastical complex, and through their scale and the facilities provided (for a stable hand) again reflect on the relative affluence of the church. Collectively, the church, presbytery and stables demonstrate the evolution of Catholic parish facilities in Marong from the 1870s to the early twentieth century.

St Patrick's Catholic Church is also of social significance as the focus of Catholic worship and the parish community of Marong, since 1877, and is valued locally as an expression of the importance of the faith and its ongoing presence in the community (Criterion G).

The church is additionally associated with Bendigo architect Joseph M Brady who, in partnership with the mining engineer Robert Moffat, ran a successful practice in the Bendigo region (Criterion H). The architect was involved in a number of local developments including *Dunedin House* in Kangaroo Flat; the Crusoe waterworks near Kangaroo Flat; the 'Bendigo Independent' offices in Bendigo; and the former 'Golden Eagle' flour mill in Bendigo.

Brady's involvement in St Patrick's Church may have come about through his reputed position as the Sandhurst Diocesan architect for the Catholic Church, where he was also involved in designing the former Bishop's Palace in McCrae Street.

St Patrick's Catholic Church is of local aesthetic/architectural significance as an example of a small Gothic Revival stuccoed church of the 1870s. It is largely intact as designed, having never been extended or substantially modified. Details of interest include the asymmetrically placed sanctuary and vestry of the church; the spur *cyma recta* moulds between the buttresses; and the gable kneelers. The church is prominent in its context by virtue of its location in a large and informal open landscape, with unimpeded views from Cathcart and High streets. The presbytery is also of aesthetic/architectural significance as an imposing Federation period dwelling with a handsome verandah, albeit relatively conservative in design. Modifications to the building have generally been concentrated to the rear, allowing the property to present as originally designed in its garden setback, which retains vestiges of its early layout. The c.1905 timber stables are also significant as a rare example of a virtually unaltered stables building (Criterion B). The survival of the stables in association with a church and presbytery, including a stables of this size, is additionally a rare surviving combination. For the church building, the spur *cyma recta* moulds between the buttresses and the gable kneelers also occur very rarely in Victoria, if at all.

Theme

8. Building community life

Heritage Study/Consultant Greater Bendigo - Heritage Policy Citations Review, Lovell Chen P/L, 2011;

Construction dates 1877, 1905,

Architect/Designer Brady, Joseph Martin, Keogh & Austen,

Hermes Number 184927

Property Number

Physical Description 1

St Patrick's Catholic Church

St Patrick's Catholic Church (1877) is located on a deep, broad site running east-west between Cathcart Street and the High Street in the centre of Marong. It is a small Gothic Revival stuccoed church with a porch to the east and a sanctuary and vestry to the west. The gabled roof is timber-framed and clad in corrugated galvanised steel, with a cross at the top of each gable end, and another over the porch. Windows and doorways are lancet arched and there are oculus windows and motifs in the gable ends. The west wall of the nave has a blind Romanesque arch to the sanctuary. The nave has five bays, each expressed by two-step side buttresses, and five gablet roof vents on each side. The nave corners each have angled buttresses intersecting just below the gable kneelers. A corbelled effect is gained from stubby *cyma recta* moulds jutting out between the upper buttress insets and the

kneeler elevations. The kneeler profiles are vermiculated. Apex blocks support the crucifix finials on the two larger gables. The gable parapets are each pitched with a rounded ridge, curving back toward the horizontal at their bases. The nave, porch and vestry windows are all original timber-framed double-hung sashes with two clear panes per facet, and all of similar size. The church appears to be in good condition. The substantial church grounds are not formally landscaped. There are a number of trees to the north, and a rough track ('desire line') running east-west across the site. The toilet block (1975) is located to the west of the site. Fencing is modern metal posts with cyclone wire.

Presbytery

The presbytery (1905), set back from Cathcart Street behind generous garden, is a Federation design with a symmetrical gable-hip roof with boxed eaves, bracketed on each side by gabled wings, which also frame the verandah. Its roof is timber framed and clad in corrugated galvanised steel. The chimneys have substantial bases, though these are treated as necks, comparatively close in to the stacks, rather than the massive block-bases seen at Kangaroo Flat and elsewhere. The upper stacks have simple stuccoed cornices. The verandah has a bull-nosed roof clad in corrugated galvanised steel and a timber frame set on turned timber posts. The timber frieze rail supports a cast iron lace infill and there are cast iron lace fans flanking the intersection of each post with the frieze. The walls are white tuckpointed red brick with cement-rendered courses running around at window sill height. The verandah is terminated by a lattice screen, which appears to be a recent addition. There are symmetrical window bays and half timbering to the gable ends. A trailing wing projects from the south-east of the house, terminated by a chimney similar to those in the main house. This wing comprises a single-ridge pitched roof clad in corrugated galvanised steel, a more recent flat-roofed portion with porthole windows inset at clerestory level, a lean-to verandah and a brick walled addition running at right angles across the rear of the main house. The majority of the windows sit at the rendered course line and are double-hung timber sashes with clear panes. The presbytery appears to be in sound condition. The garden includes mature palm trees and vestiges early garden layout.

Stables

The timber framed stables (presumed to date to 1905) at the rear of the site comprise a central three stall stables with loft, a carriage room to the south and two roomed quarters, kitchen, laundry and shower alcove to the north. Inside, the mangers, stalls and brick pavement remain. The loading doorway to the loft retains its surmounting beam and gables with decorative brackets. The walls are clad in weatherboard, and the roof is clad in corrugated galvanised steel. The stables are in poor condition, with at least 25 weatherboard planks missing from the walls, exposing the timber frame exposed in these areas. A window is missing on the south-west side and two others appear in poor repair. The galvanised steel roof has some rusted areas and the weatherboard walling has not been painted for a long period.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

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