

# CHRIST CHURCH COMPLEX



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H0387 Christ church  
warrnambool feb07 ac  
church12



H0387 Christ church  
warrnambool feb07 ac hall



H0387 Christ church  
warrnambool feb07 ac hall  
sunday school exterior



H0387 Christ church  
warrnambool feb07 ac tennis  
pavilion 4



H0387 Christ church warrnambool feb07 ac rectory4



After Photograph - Reference F3866 2016



After Photograph - Reference F3866 2016



After Photograph - Reference F3866 2016



After Photograph - Reference F3866 2016



Before Photograph - Reference F3866 2014



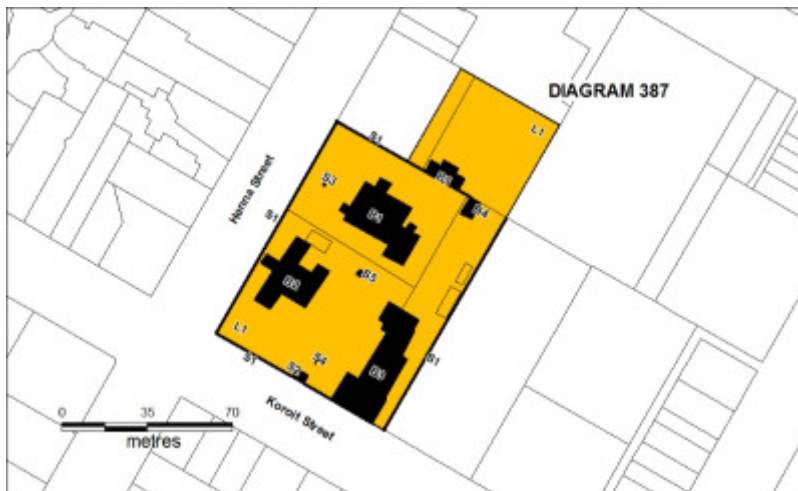
During Photograph - Reference F3866 2015



During Photograph - Reference F3866 2015



During Photograph - Reference F3866 2015



H0387 Christ church warrnambool plan

## Location

64-66 HENNA STREET AND 224-230 KOROIT STREET WARRNAMBOOL, WARRNAMBOOL CITY

## Municipality

WARRNAMBOOL CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0387

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO183

## VHR Registration

July 12, 2007

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 16, 2007

What is significant?

Christ Church complex, Warrnambool comprises the church, rectory, hall and school building and a stable, all enclosed by an extensive stone wall, with tennis courts and a pavilion in an adjoining block. The foundation stone for Christ Church was laid on 2 December 1855 by the Rev Peter Teulon Beamish (1824-1914) who was the first Anglican vicar in Warrnambool, arriving in 1850. The architect Nathaniel Billing designed the original church (south nave) which was completed in 1856 and in January 1861 called for tenders for an addition (north nave). The stone porch was added in 1874. On 9 December 1879 tenders were advertised for the erection of a spire and tower by Melbourne architects Terry & Oakden and Warrnambool architect Andrew Kerr. The plans were modified and advertised for tender in 1881 and the bell tower dedicated and bells installed in 1882.

The Gothic Revival church is constructed of sandstone with a slate roof. Its construction in stages has resulted in an unusual plan form with two parallel naves and a square battlemented tower. The interior features timber trussed ceilings, a carved stone pulpit (1897), a tiled Soldiers Memorial Tablet (1923), and chancel with a highly decorative reredos (1870), painted ceiling and encaustic tiles (1878) and a Fincham & Hobday organ (1890). The church has a large collection of stained glass windows ranging from the 1860s to the 1960s including works of Ferguson & Urie, William Montgomery and Brooks Robinson, many of them memorials to local families.

The timber wing of the rectory, now the east wing, was built in c.1854 and used for worship until the church was completed. Andrew Kerr designed a stone addition to the west of the rectory in 1863. The rectory adopts some features of the picturesque domestic version of the Gothic Revival style.

The parish hall along Koroit Street is linked to the school building by a series of additions and alterations carried out over a long period. The original wing of the school, built in stone to a design by Andrew Kerr in 1862, was modified and extended on both sides in 1864 and 1886, in 1913 by the addition of the northern kindergarten wing, with infill rooms built post-Second World War and by further changes in 1986. The stone gabled parish hall with its simple Gothic detailing was built in 1897.

The stone First World War Memorial in the church grounds was unveiled in 1923 and the iron notice board near the Henna Street entrance gates was erected in 1933. A lych gate at the Koroit Street entrance was built in 1937 as a bequest from Mrs E. J. McGeorge. A tennis club was formed in 1908 and in 1910 a shelter shed was erected although the present pavilion may date from c.1926 when the club re-formed. A croquet club was also formed in 1914 and a bowling club established in 1933, but associated facilities have been demolished. The stone wall which surrounds the close was built in 1873.

How is it significant?

Christ Church Complex, Warrnambool is of historical, aesthetic and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Christ Church Complex is of historical significance for its association with the early history of the Anglican Church in Victoria. It is an essentially intact and rare example of a nineteenth century church precinct containing recreational, educational and religious facilities which demonstrate the needs and operations of the Anglican Church since the 1850s.

Christ Church is of aesthetic significance for the quality of its interior decoration, fixtures and objects, notably the stencilled and gilded chancel ceiling, the reredos, the World War I memorial tablet and the fine collection of stained glass windows designed by leading stained glass firms and artists in Victoria in the nineteenth and twentieth century, including windows from all decades of Ferguson & Urie's (1861-99) production of stained glass creating a rare collection of comparative examples.

Christ Church Complex is of architectural significance as an important early work of architect Nathaniel Billing and for the involvement of other significant architects, Andrew Kerr and Terry & Oakden. It is also of architectural significance as a visually cohesive complex derived from its consistency of design, Gothic detailing and use of materials.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

## Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Interiors of B2, B3 and B5:

Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of any original paint or other decorative scheme.

Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.

Installation, removal or replacement of curtain tracks, rods and blinds.

Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted art or religious works or icons.

Removal or replacement of non-original door and window furniture including, hinges, locks, knobsets and sash lifts.

Refurbishment of existing bathrooms, toilets and kitchens including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.

Removal or replacement of kitchen benches, cupboards and fixtures including sinks, stoves, ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers etc and associated plumbing and wiring.

Removal of tiling or concrete slabs in wet areas provided there is no damage to or alteration of original structure or fabric.

Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and that the central plant is concealed.

Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring.

Installation, removal or replacement of electric clocks, public address systems, detectors, alarms, emergency lights, exit signs, luminaires and the like on plaster surfaces.

Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.

Installation of new fire hydrant services including sprinklers, fire doors and elements affixed to plaster surfaces.

Non-registered buildings and structures

All works, including demolition and internal modification, but not additions.

Landscape:

The process of gardening and maintenance, mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead plants, disease and weed control, emergency and safety works to care for existing plants and planting themes.

Repairs, conservation and maintenance to hard landscape elements, roads and paths, drainage and irrigation system.

Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard, Pruning of amenity trees AS4373.

Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.

Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering and drainage systems.

Non-commercial signage, lighting, security fire safety and other safety requirements, provided no structural building occurs.

Resurfacing of existing paths and driveways.

Construction dates 1856,

Architect/Designer Billing, Nathaniel, Kerr, Andrew, Terry & Oakden,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered object integral to a registered place,

Hermes Number 4343

Property Number

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## History

The first vicar at Warrnambool was Rev Peter Teulon Beamish (1824-1914) who along with the Rev Dr Cusack Russell was one of the most important churchmen in the western District in the 19th century. The land was set aside in 1850. Tenders were called on 17 October 1855 for the erection of a new church by Nathaniel Billing (Argus, 17/10/1855, p.7). The foundation stone was laid on 2 December 1855. The church was officially opened on 21 December 1856. Tenders were called on 22 January 1861 (Argus, 22/1/1861, p.7) by Billing for additions to the church. The reredos was erected in 1870. The stone porch was added in 1874. On 9 December 1879 (Argus, 9/12/1879, p.3) tenders were advertised for the erection of a spire and tower by Terry & Oakden and Andrew Kerr with the plans available at the Melbourne office of Terry & Oakden and the Warrnambool office of Andrew Kerr. The plans were modified and advertised for tender in 1881 and the bell tower dedicated and bells installed in 1882. The chancel ceiling painted and the encaustic tiles laid in the 1878. Pulpit dates from 1897. The Soldiers Memorial Tablet was unveiled in January 1923. The World War 1 Memorial was unveiled in 1923. The notice board near the entrance gates was erected in 1933. Plans drawn up by Louis Williams in 1937 for additions to the church were not built.

Stained glass windows include early Ferguson & Urie, William Montgomery and Brooks Robinson ranging in age from the 1860s to the 1960s. The church includes windows from all decades of Ferguson & Urie's (1861-99) production of stained glass, thus making a gallery of comparative examples, an opportunity which is rarely so accessible.

Organ ordered from Fincham in July 1868. A new organ by Fincham & Hobday installed 1890.

The Hall was completed in 1897 built of the local Merri stone. The old iron roof was replaced in 1986.

The first wing (east wing) of the rectory was built prior to 1854. Part of this building was used for worship in 1853. The west wing was built in the 1860s.

Andrew Kerr advertised for tenders for the erection of a Church of England school on 8 November 1861 (Warrnambool Examiner, 8/11/1861). The Sunday School was built in 1862. In April 1864 tenders for an addition to the school were advertised (Warrnambool Examiner, 12/4/1864). An infant school was built in 1886 with improvements undertaken to the Sunday School building (WJ Pinson, *The English Church*, 1987). Extensions to the school and hall were built in 1913. Infill building built in the 1940s.

The lych gate was built in 1937. It was bequeathed by Mrs E. J. McGeorge wife of one of the vicars and dedicated by the Bishop of Ballarat on 7 August 1937. The stone wall was built in 1873.

The tennis club was formed in 1908 but re-formed in 1926 when it was given an area in enlarged church property (Centenary Souvenir of Christ Church, p.11). In 1957 the club was re-formed on the present courts. According to the Parish Record 18 September 1909 the approaches to the dressing room were improved. Parish Record 19 March 1910 it was noted that an additional shelter shed now being erected for convenience of members and visitors. Parish Record 20 September 1913 it was noted that repairs were undertaken to fence, gates and shelter.

Croquet club formed in 1914 with the lawn on vicarage lawn. Croquet House built in 1915. Bowling club established in 1933.

## Plaque Citation

The earliest part of the church, now the south nave, was completed in 1856 to a design by Nathaniel Billing. The Christ Church buildings, structures and the extensive stone wall form an important 19th century church precinct.

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 387 in the category described as Heritage Place is described as: Christ Church Complex, 64-66 Henna Street, 224-230 Koroit Street, Warrnambool, Warrnambool City Council.

### EXTENT:

1. Christ Church complex comprising all the following buildings and structures marked on Diagram 387 held by the Executive Director.

- B1 Church
- B2 Rectory
- B3 Hall and school
- B4 Stable
- B5 Tennis pavilion
- S1 Stone Wall
- S2 Lych gate
- S3 Notice board
- S4 Lamp post
- S5 First World War Memorial

2. All the following objects:

- 1890 Fincham & Hobday organ
- First World War memorial tablet

3. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 387 held by the Executive Director being all of Crown Allotments 9, 10, 13, 14, 15 & 16 and part of Crown Allotment 12, Section 16, Parish of Wangoom.

Dated 6 July 2007

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 28 12 July 2007 1552-1553]

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*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.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*