

# ST MARKS ANGLICAN CHURCH



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1 st marks anglican church george street fitzroy front view oct1986



st marks anglican church george street fitzroy spire view



st marks anglican church george street fitzroy interior nave arches jul1980



St Marks George St Fitzroy Vicarage



St Marks Anglican Church George Street Fitzroy Community Centre



St Marks George St Fitzroy Parish Hall



St Marks George St Fitzroy  
Former Sunday School

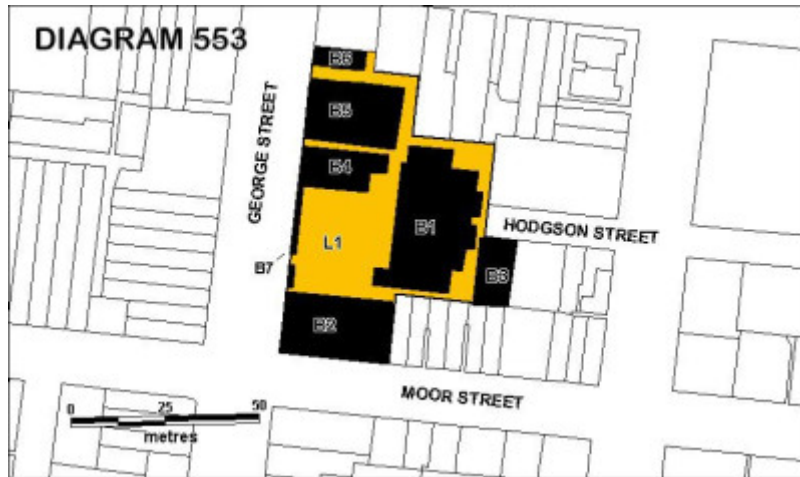


DIAGRAM 553

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## Location

250-260, 268 AND 270 GEORGE STREET FITZROY, YARRA CITY

## Municipality

YARRA CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0553

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO158

## VHR Registration

July 6, 1983

## Amendment to Registration

May 18, 2023

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 3, 2024

#### What is significant?

St Mark's became the focus of the Anglican community in Fitzroy during its development as Melbourne's first suburb. From 1849 a Mission Church and school served as a centre for religious, educational and recreational facilities. The school was one of a number of denominational schools established by the Church of England and was partly funded by the Denominational School Board.

St Mark's Church, built from 1853 to accommodate the growing Anglican congregation, is in the Early English Gothic style. It was designed by architect James Blackburn, but was incomplete at the time of his death in 1854. Other notable Melbourne architects helped finish the work including Lloyd Tayler, Leonard Terry and Charles Webb, although the east tower and spire was never completed. The exterior is largely unadorned bluestone, with buttresses and lancet windows, and culminating with a square tower and broach spire. Internally there is an unusual two storey arcaded gallery, the original marble font and pews, carved timber screens, 1939 rood screen, and an organ dating from 1877 built by William Anderson. Stained glass windows include work by William Montgomery and the firm Brooks Robinson.

The Parish Hall and verger's cottage were added in 1889 to designs by architects Hyndman and Bates. The hall is arranged as a nave with clerestory windows and side aisles with buttresses. In 1891 the same architects designed the Choir Vestry and Infants Sunday School on Hodgson Street, to replace the earlier school of 1849 which had been located in the forecourt of the church.

In 1923 architects Gawler and Drummond designed the two storey red brick Social Settlement Buildings (now known as the Community Centre). The Social Settlement facilities included a gymnasium, club rooms and children's library, and was an agency of Anglican neighborhood social welfare. Other common names for this type of place are settlement house, community center, or neighborhood house. It differed from other social agencies in being concerned with neighborhood life as a whole rather than with providing selected services. The Social Settlement movement had spread quickly in most larger British and American cities, and the philosophy was to eliminate the distance between socio-economic classes by locating settlements in working-class neighborhoods. The first international Conference of Settlement Workers, held in London in 1922, led to the organization in 1926 of the International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres. During the Depression, the St Mark's Settlement fed hundreds of children daily.

The Community Centre includes a room once used as a children's library and is notable for its four stained glass windows donated by Ida Rentoul Outhwaite, one of Australia's foremost children's artists. The windows depict fairies and pixies in an Australian setting, from Rentoul book illustrations.

The present St Mark's vicarage, a two-storey brick structure with verandahs, was erected in 1910.

The George Street frontage includes a forecourt setting bounded by the church, vicarage and community centre, with a surviving pair of elm trees, lawns and iron palisade fence and gates.

#### How is it significant?

St Marks Anglican Church is of architectural, historical, aesthetic and social significance to the State of Victoria.

#### Why is it significant?

St Marks Anglican Church is of architectural significance as one of Melbourne's finest and earliest bluestone churches. The church is one of Fitzroy's earliest buildings and was one of the first churches in Melbourne constructed entirely of bluestone.

St Marks Anglican Church is of historical significance to the State of Victoria as a physical remnant of the growth of Melbourne's first suburb, Fitzroy, and as a symbol of the development of the Anglican Church in the early years of the colony. The complex of buildings at St Mark's is an extraordinary example of a working Anglican parish precinct with church, Sunday School, parish hall, verger's house, vicarage and Social Settlement House set around the treed forecourt facing George Street.

St Mark's Anglican Church is of social significance, particularly for the provision of the Social Settlement buildings. The gymnasium, club rooms and children's library were typical of facilities provided in settlement houses. Within St Mark's Settlement House the Children's Library with the Ida Rentoul Outhwaite windows demonstrates the characteristic concern of settlement work with children's welfare and the attempt to attract children to the centre in order to promote their general well being. The St Mark's Community Centre, as part of the St Mark's parish, is the only known example of a Settlement House in Victoria. Its design and fabric demonstrates the philosophy and function of its use and it still operates as a community centre for inner suburban residents.

St Mark's Anglican Church is of aesthetic significance for the fine collection of stained glass, including work in the church by leading exponents William Montgomery and Brooks Robinson, and for the Ida Rentoul Outhwaite windows in the former Children's Library, which are the only known examples of her work in this medium.

## 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 alterations 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 alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners

or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable. Landscape:

The process of gardening; mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead plants, disease and weed control, emergency and safety works and landscaping and planting to retain the existing landscape character

The replanting of plant species to conserve the landscape character.

Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of amenity trees AS 4373.

Removal of plants listed as State Prohibited and Regionally Controlled Weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.

Repairs, conservation and maintenance to hard landscape elements, steps, asphalt paths, edging, fences and gates.

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

Exterior of all buildings:

Maintenance and repairs which replace like with like.

Removal of extraneous items such as air-conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc. and making good

Interior of all buildings, except Church

Removal, replacement or installation of smoke detectors and electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is concealed

Repair and servicing of equipment and services including wiring, plumbing, heating, air-conditioning and fire services

Updating, removal or replacement of services to wet areas.

Vicarage and Verger's House:

All internal works are permit exempt.

Construction dates	1853,
Architect/Designer	Blackburn, James Jnr,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	ST MARK'S,
Hermes Number	455
Property Number	

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## History

**This history is from the website of Saint Mark's Church, Fitzroy**

<https://www.stmarksfitzroy.com/our-history> [accessed 21 February 2024]

The foundation stone of Saint Mark's Church was laid on 1 July 1853 and opened in early 1855. This church became the focus of the Anglican community in Fitzroy during its development as Melbourne's first suburb. It is built in the early English Gothic Revival style, the first bluestone church built outside the central business district.

Richard Grice, the generous pastoralist and philanthropist, contributed almost all the cost of its construction. Noted architects were involved in its construction: James Blackburn, the original architect, Leonard Terry who supervised the construction of the bluestone stairs and the distinctive gallery on the eastern side of the building in 1865 and Charles Webb who, in 1874, added the tower and spire.

There are fine lancet stained glass windows featuring the work of the firms Brooks Robinson Ltd and William Montgomery. Many of the windows were installed in the late nineteenth century and one in the narthex / baptistery in the late twentieth century. The blackwood reredos, which dates from 1939, features a mosaic of the last supper also by Brooks Robinson.

Major refurbishment and restoration works costing over \$1 million took place in the 1990s including the installation of the Harrison and Harrison organ in 1998.

Daily services were commenced in 1885 during the time of the Reverend John Francis Stretch – later Bishop of Newcastle. During the 1920s and 1930s the Reverend Reginald Nicholls (Brother Bill) installed a screen in the church to show moving picture shows as part of the liturgy. Eucharistic Vestments were introduced in the 1960s and in 1973 a daily Mass commenced when Fr Michael King became the Vicar and adopted a modern expression of Anglo-Catholic worship. In 1975 he founded the Community of Saint Mark a religious order for men; the Brothers lived in the vicarage and assisted with parish visiting and counselling. In 1980 the Community, feeling called to a Benedictine form of life, left Fitzroy and became St. Mark's Priory, the Benedictine monastery at Camperdown.

Today the modern Anglo-Catholic form of worship continues with a fine musical program which is integrated with the ritual and text of the Mass.

Saint Mark's property contains many interesting buildings. On the eastern side of the property on Hodgson Street the former St Mark's School. It dates from 1891 having being relocated from the George Street side in 1923.

On George Street stands the former Parish Hall and Verger's Cottage built in 1891 to the design of Hyndman & Bates Architects who also envisaged the building of a grand Vicarage in the same style with a return veranda. In the end, only the hall and the verger's cottage were built. The Vicarage was built in 1910.

The red brick St Mark's Community Centre, originally known as the Social Settlement buildings, was designed by the architectural firm Gawler and Drummond in 1923. This building contains a room which was the first free children's library in Victoria and features stained glass windows featuring fairies and pixies in an Australian setting from book illustrations of Ida Rentoul Outhwaite, a notable woman artist of the era.

During the 1970s the Saint Mark's Social Settlement Building, built in 1926, was known as the Community Centre. In the late 1970s, when the religious Community of Saint Mark was in the process of formation, they and sisters from the Community of the Holy Name, conducted various programs for families from the Community Centre. It became known as the Saint Mark's Community Centre in 1980 when the parish engaged a social worker, Peter Burke, to run emergency relief and a community lounge. From that time, the church began a more active collaboration with its surrounding communities.

St Mark's has a strong history of providing social welfare support and facilities for the local community. The church also holds important meaning for its longstanding mission to support LGBTIQ+ people. A fundraiser for Gay Community News was hosted there in May 1980, nearly a year before decriminalisation was implemented in Victoria. St Mark's regularly hired out its hall to gay groups for meetings at a time when many organisations found that idea objectionable or too controversial.

Beginning in the mid-1980s, St Mark's ran an AIDS ministry, offering pastoral services and advocacy for people living with HIV and AIDS. Its annual AIDS requiem, held from 1986 and throughout the 1990s, was an important event for many people living with AIDS, drawing crowds of about 500 at its peak on the evening of Melbourne Cup Day. A new phase began in 2012 when the first Midsumma Mass was held at St Mark's. Commencing in 1996, the Mass had previously been held at St Agnes' Anglican Church in 116 Booran Road, Glen Huntly.

In 2010 the parish entered a partnership with Anglicare Victoria to run the centre.

Keywords: Woman artist, women artists, homosexual, LGBTIQ, HIV/AIDS.

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 2017**, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying a place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H0553

Category: Registered Place

Name: St Marks Anglican Church

Location: 250-260, 268 and 270 George Street Fitzroy

Municipality: Yarra City

1. All the buildings and structures marked as follows on Diagram 553 held by the Executive Director.

- B1 Church.
- B2 Community Centre.
- B3 Former Vestry and Sunday School.
- B4 Vicarage.
- B5 Parish Hall.
- B6 Verger's House.
- B7 George Street and Hodgson Street Iron palisade fence and gate posts.

2. All the land marked L1 shown on Diagram 553 comprising Lot 1 on Title Plan 701144, Lot 1 on Title Plan 885362, and Lot 1 on Title Plan 678546

Dated 18 May 2023

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director

*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/>*