

Place name St Mary's Cathedral

Survey Date: 4/07/2004

Other name St Mary's Cathedral Complex

Id: 1172

Street 47 to 57 Foster Street

Last Update 4/10/2004

Locality Sale

Postcode

Official Locality

Property No

Local Government Area Wellington Shire

Precinct: Precinct - Sale St Mary's

Easting

Northing

Map

Workshop number

Workshop votes

Field survey number

Community priority

Designer Baker & Henderson

Builder George Wynd

Ownership Private

Built Date 1886, 1911 **Change Date**

Description The St Mary's Cathedral Complex is contained within the block bordered by Foster Street, Pearson Street, Macalister Street and Reeve Street on the southern side of Sale.

St Mary's Cathedral is a decorated Gothic church with unusual polygonal apse and ornate buttresses. Originally finished in exposed brick with decorative Gothic tracery of Waurn Ponds stone, the church today has rendered and painted walls. The slate roof has been recently cleaned and treated, and the fine copper guttering also restored. The Clerestory window and paired arched windows in the nave contain fine stained glass. Interior features include marble fittings and mosaic panels with fine wooden joinery including a carved wooden throne donated by Nunans, Melbourne.(4) An addition to the north of the nave is under construction, and is of a sympathetic but distinctly contemporary design.

Within the cathedral is a two-manual organ, originally of nine speaking stops, of unknown provenance, almost certainly by a local builder, and dating from the latter years of last (nineteenth) century, the nucleus consisting of a small single-manual organ of four ranks. The instrument retains its original action, console, wind system and pipework, although with the addition of five ranks and a new great windchest during the restoration completed by S J Laurie in 1993. It incorporates a distinctive twin-tower painted case with stencilled facade pipes, restored in 1993. It is one of three historic instruments to be found in Gippsland. (National Trust Register, B5786)

The cathedral is in excellent condition, with most features intact. The building has been rendered since its early days, when it had an exposed brick external surface. An addition to the north wall of the nave is under construction

Feature	Style	Wall Materials	Roof Materials
Cathedral	Gothic	Rendered Masonry	Slate

Condition Excellent

Integrity Minor Modifications

Redevelopment/change

Religious

Building

National Themes

Local Themes

9.1 Religion

History

The present church was built on land gazetted under the Roman Catholic Church in 1863. An earlier church, founded by Father McGirr around 1860, was found to be inadequate for the growing Catholic community in the district. Work commenced on the church in 1881 to the design of Baker and Henderson and the builder was a local, George Wynd (1). The church was completed in 1886-87, and the sanctuary added in 1911-12 (7).

In 1885 Sale became a See, a parish presided over by a bishop, and one of six in the Australasian region at the time (2).

The partnership of Baker and Henderson was responsible for a number of ecclesiastical commissions in Melbourne in the early 1890s, including Catholic churches at East Trentham, Elsternwick, West Melbourne, and St Paul's Roman Catholic School in South Melbourne as well as a collection of civic and commercial premises in country Victoria.(5)

The founding Bishop, Bishop Corbett, obtained the Cathedral bells from France when he was in Europe in 1889.

He also purchased the onyx high altar from France. A picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour was blessed by the Pope in Rome in 1889 and brought to Sale by Bishop Corbett. The Cathedral was dedicated under that title in 1891. The picture was recently incorporated into a trypitch.(8)

The angel statues were added to the parapet in 1934 (3). In the early 1990s, the cathedral was extensively restored, with cleaning and repainting, sterilisation of the slate roof, and paving. Additions designed by Richard Falkinger were commenced in 1993 to the north of the building.

SOURCES

- National Trust of Australia (Vic) File No. 5786.
- Lewis, M, Australian Architectural Index
- Lewis, M (ed.), Victorian Churches, 1991:147
- Moran, P.F., History of the Catholic Church in Australasia, Sydney, n.d. p.849
- Information supplied by parish priest
- (7) Information from Peter Synan.
- (8) 'Catholic Life: St Mary's Cathedral' Supplement, Dec, 1993.
- Other references as cited

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
National Trust Register	B5786		Listed
Planning Scheme	HO104		Listed
Register of the National Estate	100622		Recommended
Victorian Heritage Register	607614		File only

National Estate

Research Required

Recommendations

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking Assessed & protected **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

Final Ranking Regional significance **Final Recommendation**

Statement of significance St Mary's Cathedral is a significant part of the heritage of Sale and of Gippsland, representing the 'coming-of-age' of the Catholic church in Gippsland. Architecturally it is a good example of Decorated Gothic church architecture, featuring finely detailed buttressing and tracery windows. Overall an intact example of the work of highly regarded architects of ecclesiastical buildings, Baker and Henderson of Melbourne. (A.4, F.1, H.1)

The building remains an important landmark in the area and has symbolic and sentimental importance in the Catholic community in Sale. The building is an important component in a complex of religious, residential and educational buildings connected to the Catholic parish in the immediate vicinity. It is of research value as a carefully restored example of church architecture of the period.(G.1, A.3, C.2)

The church organ is one of only three historic instruments to be found in Gippsland.(B.2) (National Trust Register, B5786)

Extent of designation

Informant

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography Context Pty Ltd, (1994), City of Sale Heritage Study
Context Pty Ltd, (2004), Wellington Heritage Study: Sale Review



Foster Street 0047, ID 1172 iii.jpg

Context

1/01/1994



Foster Street 0047, ID 1172 i.jpg

Context

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Foster Street 0047, ID 1172 ii.jpg

Context

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Peter Synan

1/01/1994



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Kristy Crawford

20/02/2007

