

BUILDING TITLE: St Mary's Catholic Church **BUILDING ADDRESS:** 136 Lonsdale St
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: A || B |X| C || D || E || **BUILDING TYPE:** church
DESIGNATION: HBR Reg No File # AHC File # NT File # Class || Rec ||
CONSERVATION AREA: Hospital Hill **LEVEL OF STREETScape SIGNIFICANCE:** 1 || 2 |X| 3 |X|
STYLE: Gothic Revival (Decorated)

CONSTRUCTION DATE & ALTERATIONS:

1. 1866 (truncated version)
2. 1900 (F Hammond extension)
3. 1901
4. ? (tower)
5. 1989 (F Punch extension)
- 6.

Sources:

- 1 D Garden, p 82
- 2 stone below main window
- 3 D Garden, p 126
- 4 F Punch, 5/4/91

MATERIALS:

Roof: slate
Walls: rockfaced bluestone
Dressings: sandstone
Plinth: dressed bluestone
Windows: stained glass
Paving: concrete
Other: leadlight in some windows

SURVEY DATE: 5/4/91 **NEG FILE:** 4/31,32,33 **REPORTER:** tfh

INTEGRITY: E |X| G || F || P || **NOTABLE FEATURES:** With its spire it dominates as a landmark for this part of Hamilton.

CONDITION: E |X| G || F || P ||

SIGNIFICANCE: focus for the Catholics of Hamilton, as a design by Wardell with J H Fox and for its later extensions. With the twin spires of Church Hill this is a landmark building for Hamilton.

ALTERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Appropriate: Rec Inappropriate: Rec
1989 extension none apparent

O=reinstate original design S=reinstate sympathetic alternative R=remove RAM=remove by approved method

SIGNIFICANT OWNERS/TENANTS:	ARCHITECTS/BUILDERS:	TITLE:
land to J A Goold on 4/12/55 (bishop of Melbourne)	William Wardell & J H Fox Frank Hammond, extension	Sec CA 30 1 - 7 Frank Punch, architect, 1989 current owner Catholic Church Trustees
COUNCIL COMPUTER # 13001.0001	MORE INFO OVER X	HAMDS089

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St Mary's Catholic Church
136 Lonsdale Street

This building has regional significance for its architectural interest as a notable Western District church, the first section of which was designed in 1865 by the distinguished architect, William Wilkinson Wardell, who was responsible for the design of St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne as well as many other important ecclesiastical buildings throughout Victoria. ⁽ⁱ⁾ The architect James Henry Fox, who designed sections of the Hamilton Hospital in the 1860s, most probably supervised early work at St Mary's, which opened in August 1866. ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

St Mary's, a bluestone church with Mt Sturgeon sandstone dressings, is of interest for its dramatically steep apse with etiolated windows and the typically Wardellian sexfoil windows of the clerestory. The building also has associations with the local architect, Frank Hammond, Town Clerk and Engineer, who designed a number of important Hamilton buildings. The west end of St Mary's was completed from Hammond's designs in 1902 and he was responsible also, for the completion of the spire in 1916. ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ Another local architect, Francis Punch, was responsible for extensions and renovations in 1987. ^(iv) St Mary's has historical significance for its associations with Catholic congregations in the Hamilton district and beyond over a period of more than 120 years.

The church is significantly intact and in excellent condition. It is a critical part of the streetscape and its spire, as with those on Church Hill, forms a landmark for Hamilton.

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC THEMES

Religion: Catholicism & Churches
Evolution of the Town: 1860s, 1900s, 1980s
Government institutions: Local

ASSOCIATED HISTORIC BUILDINGS

St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne
Catholic Church, Koroit (designs by W Wardell)

REFERENCES

HSA DP 2376 & DP 310.
Garden, D, *Hamilton*, 1984.
Australian Architectural Index
Ebsworth, *Pioneer Catholic Victoria*.
Historic Environment III, No. 4, 1984.
Australian Dictionary Of Biography, (W Wardell).
De Jong, Ursula, 'William Wardell' (4 vols), 1990.
National Trust of Australia (Victoria) File No. 3265.
Some Of The Fruits Of Fifty Years - Annals Of The Catholic Church In Victoria, Melbourne, 1897.

FOOTNOTES

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- ⁱ Garden, D, *Hamilton*, p 82; *Australian Architectural Index*; Ebsworth, *Pioneer Catholic Victoria*, p 112; Hazell, T, 'W Wardell' in *Historic Environment III*, No. 4, 1984.
ⁱⁱ Ibid.; Ebsworth, p 486; *Geelong Advertiser*, 7 October 1865 (J H Fox calls tenders for erection of part of RC church, Hamilton).
ⁱⁱⁱ National Trust File No. 3265.
^{iv} Ibid., Includes plan showing proposed extension and renovations. Dated March 1987.