

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Coleraine-Balmoral Road BALMORAL

STUDY NUMBER: 158

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Balmoral

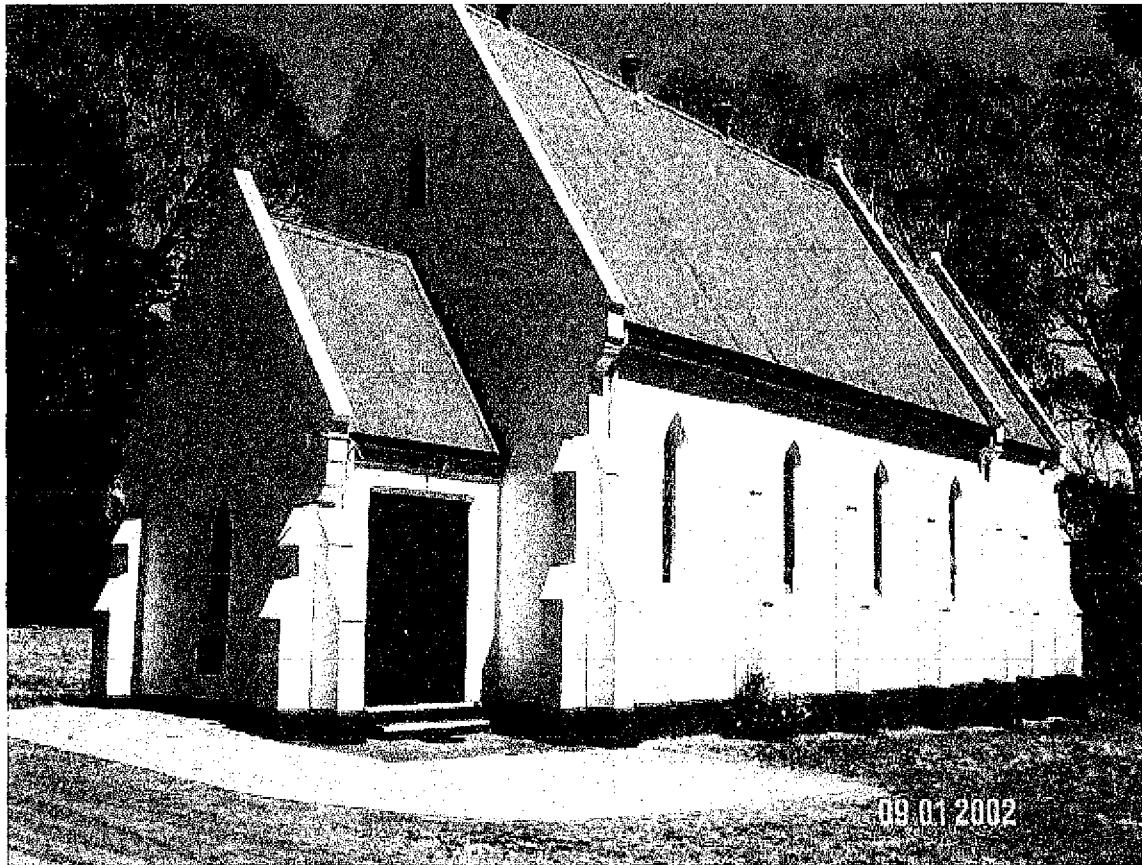
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 3 **SECTION:** 10

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 388J; Vicroads 227T3; located on the northern side of the Coleraine-Balmoral Road, about one kilometre from the centre of the township of Balmoral.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



St Patrick's Catholic Church, Coleraine - Balmoral Road, Balmoral. View of Church from Coleraine Road.

Image Date: 09/01/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the church and all of the land but excluding the toilets at the rear.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

A simple rendered brick church, St Patrick's is built in the Gothic revival style, formerly of three bays, now four, with a narthex or porch and a chancel also added in the early twentieth century. It is not certain when the transept and porch on the west side were constructed. The original section of the nave has rockface bluestone footings. Buttresses divide the bays. The main roof of corrugated iron, painted green, is pitched at 60°, as is the chancel roof and that of the porch. Four patent metal ventilators straddle the ridge line.

The interior is also typical of the style. The walls are plain plaster, the ceiling has simple exposed trusses, supported on hammer beams, and timber lining boards. The chancel is divided from the nave by a large Gothic arch and single step, the communion rail having been removed. Its window, which dominates the interior, is composed of a single lancet in two lights with diaper patterned leadlight and stained glass details. The side windows are leadlight in a diaper pattern. Typical plaster Stations of the Cross line the walls. Light fittings are suspended from metal tie-rods.

Toilets have been added at the rear of the church.

The church is surrounded by a simple garden and is approached by a semi-circular drive.

The interior has been substantially modified in a recent modernisation with the removal of pews and the introduction of carpet being the most obvious changes.

HISTORY:

Unlike St Andrew's Presbyterian Church but like St Mary's Anglican Church, the land on which St Patrick's stands was not alienated for the Catholic Church in the 1860 survey plan of 'The Township of Balmoral and Suburban Allotments in the County of Dundas'. It was noted as an official reserve, however, in the parish plan of 1866.

Like the other churches, the Catholics in the Balmoral area were served by itinerant priests on an irregular basis. According to Lyell Harris, 'In 1875, a parish was set up at Casterton and priests from there covered much the same areas as the Anglicans. The first of these priest was Fr. Marshall.' In 1894, the priest was Fr O'Neill and Mass was celebrated at various times in the Court House, the Mechanics Institute hall and the commercial room of the Western Hotel.

The original part of the church, three of the four bays of the nave, was opened in 1895. Its simple conservative Gothic revival style and hall form are standard for a church of that time and place. The bricks were burnt close by on the banks of Mather's Creek to the west of the church. The builder was a man called Wiltshire but no architect has been associated with the design. The church was extended by the extra bay, and by the addition of the porch, chancel and sacristy in the 1920s.

Lyell writes, 'In 1919, after the death of Fr Lowham, of Casterton, Bishop Foley [of the Ballarat Diocese] decided to form the Parish of Harrow which included Apsley, Edenhope, Balmoral, Harrow, Chetwynd and Tarrayoukyan. The first priest was Fr Dan McGowan who lived at the Hermitage Hotel until the presbytery was completed in 1921.' The Parish was subsequently reduced when the Edenhope Parish was formed in 1950.

The bricks for the Catholic church were made at the same time as those for the Anglican church in Stirling Street.

The Watt and Brody families are commemorated on a simple wooden board in the porch, and are acknowledged as major contributors to the congregation of St Patrick's.

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THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

8.6.4 Making places for worship

CONDITION:

The church is in good condition externally and internally.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity externally and fair degree of integrity internally subsequent to recent modernisation.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

St Patrick's Catholic Church is located on the northern side of the Coleraine-Balmoral Road, about one kilometre from the centre of the township of Balmoral. A simple rendered church, constructed from locally made bricks, St Patrick's is built in the Gothic revival style, formerly of three bays, now four, with a narthex or porch and a chancel also added in the early twentieth century. The interiors have been substantially modified in a recent modernisation with the removal of pews and the introduction of carpet being the most obvious changes. The original part of the church dates from 1895, although Catholicism was active in the township well before that time. Prior to the construction of the St. Patrick's, irregular services were conducted by itinerant priests from the Casterton (later Harrow) parish. Mass was held in the various places around the township, including the Mechanic's Institute, Western Hotel and the Court House. The architect of St. Patrick's is not known, but the builder's name was Mr. Wiltshire. The Church retains a high degree of integrity externally and fair degree of integrity internally subsequent to recent modernisation.

How is it significant?

St Patrick's Catholic Church is of historical, social and architectural significance to the township of Balmoral and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

St Patrick's Catholic Church is of historical significance as a representation of the importance of Catholicism within the community, and its growing popularity in the Balmoral district in the late nineteenth century. The complex is of social significance to the township of Coleraine as the focus for the Catholics who settled in the township in the mid nineteenth century, mostly small selectors of pastoral land in the mid to late nineteenth century. It is also of social significance as a centre for Catholic education. It is of architectural significance for its use of the Gothic revival style to express religious values, for the range of its memorials, and as a comparison with the churches of other denominations in the township.

COMPARISON:

154 St Andrews Uniting Church and Hall, Coleraine Road, Balmoral
157 St Mary's Anglican Church, corner of Stirling and Bell Streets, Balmoral
073 St Joseph's Catholic Church, Tarrayoukyan Road, Tarrayoukyan
303 St Thomas' Catholic Church, McLennan Street, Glenhompson
093 St Michael's Catholic Church Complex, Glenferrie Road, Harrow
236 St Joseph's Catholic Church Complex, Martin Street, Penshurst
421 St Patrick's Catholic Church, Martin Street, Dunkeld

ASSESSED BY: tfh & mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

09-Jan-02

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EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Lyall Harris with the Balmoral Historical Society	Welcome Back to Balmoral	1975	27
Miles Lewis ed.,	Victorian Churches, Their origins, their story and their architecture	1991	6-9, 20