

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Martin Street PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 236

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Penshurst

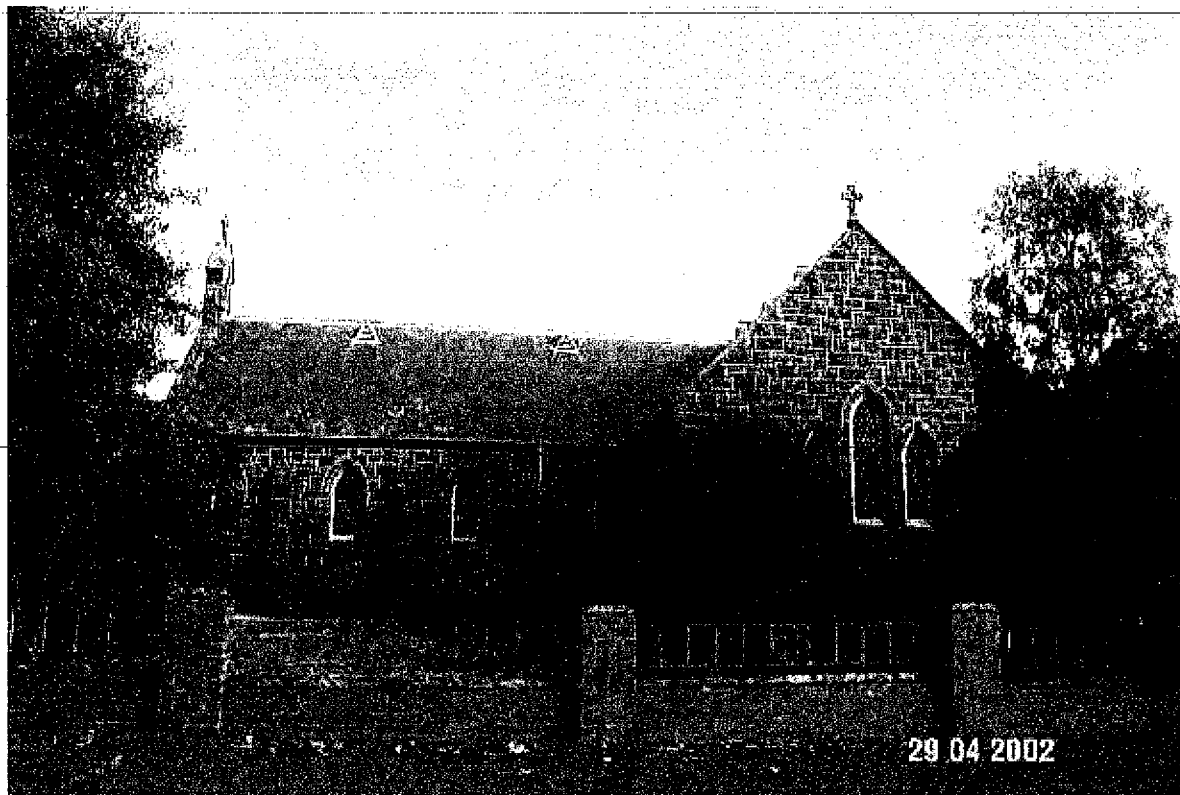
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1, 2, 3 **SECTION:** 8 **PARISH:** PARISH OF BORAMBORAM
[and
4?]

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

VicRoads 233 O11; located at the west side of Martin Street between Watton and Cobb Streets in the centre of the Township.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



St Joseph's Catholic Church, Martin St, Penshurst

Image Date: 29/04/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the church including its interiors; all the presbytery but excluding its interiors; all the school but excluding its interiors and all of the land. [to be confirmed after inspection.]

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

St Joseph's Catholic Church is in the typical Early English Gothic revival style. It is sited at the south-west corner of the intersection of Martin and Watton Streets. With its historic extensions, it is now cruciform in plan. The façade incorporates a doorway, tripartite lancet window and bellcote. The walls are constructed of coursed local bluestone. The roofs are slate with ventiaitors immediately below the ridge line. The interiors are typical of the period and style although the altar reflects the liturgical changes of the Second Vatican Council. Both the interiors and exterior are in excellent condition and retain a very high degree of integrity.

The presbytery is a single storey, asymmetrical red brick house in the Edwardian or Federation Queen anne style. It is sited immediately to the south of the church.

HISTORY:

Land was reserved for the Roman Catholic Church in the Township Plan in Kennedy Street between Cobb and Ritchie Streets, of equal size with the Anglican and Presbyterian denominations but the furthest from the centre of the township and the Police Reserve. For some reason, this site was not developed and the present site in Martin Street now has the church, presbytery and school. This site comprises allotments 1, 2, 3 and 4 of section 8 of the Township Plan. Allotments 1 and 2 were originally purchased from the Crown by a F. Forster, allotment 3 by a W. Waller, and allotment 4 by a P. W. Flower. All were sold on 15th December 1857.

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Penshurst was designed by the Hamilton architect, James Henry Fox (Tonkin, 59). He called for fresh tenders "in consequence of alterations to the design" (ibid.). Fox designed and supervised several other churches in what is now the Southern Grampians Shire, notably Holy Trinity Church, Coleraine and St Andrew's Presbyterian (now Uniting) Church, Branxholme. Extensions to St Joseph's in 1897 were designed by the architect, Frank Hammond who lived in Penshurst and who designed the extensions to the Catholic Church in Hamilton. The names of the builders are not known.

It is not known who designed or built the presbytery but it appears to date from after 1900 and may have replaced an earlier building. The former school was a weatherboard building which was removed after the Second World War. The foundation stone for the present school was laid on 18th November 1956 by the Most Rev. J. P. O'Collins D.D., Bishop of Ballarat when the school was "blessed and opened". The Parish Priest was Rev. P. Bushell. The builder was W. J. Henry & Son, who may have been responsible for the design.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 6 Educating
6.2 Establishing schools
6.5 Educating people in remote places

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
8.6 Worshipping
8.6.1 Worshipping together
8.6.4 Making places for worship

CONDITION:

The condition of all the buildings is excellent.

INTEGRITY:

high degree of integrity externally and internally for church
high degree of integrity externally for presbytery (Interior not inspected)
high degree of integrity externally for school (Interior not inspected)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

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What is significant?

St Joseph's Catholic Church is located on west side of Martin Street between Watton and Cobb Streets in the centre of Peshurst. The building is in the Gothic revival style using local bluestone. It was designed by Architect James Fox of Hamilton, who was responsible for the designs of many churches in Western Victoria in the nineteenth century. Extensions to St Joseph's in 1897 were designed by the architect, Frank Hammond who lived in Peshurst and who designed the extensions to the Catholic Church in Hamilton. The names of the builders are not known. Both the interiors and exterior are in excellent condition and retain a very high degree of integrity. The presbytery is a single storey, asymmetrical red brick house in the Edwardian or Federation Queen Anne style. It is sited immediately to the south of the church.

How is it significant?

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Presbytery and School are of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire and the township of Peshurst.

Why is it significant?

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Presbytery and School are of historical significance as the focus for that denomination in the area. The church is of architectural significance for its typical use of the Gothic revival style and as a work of the local architects, James Henry Fox and Frank Hammond. The Presbytery is of architectural significance for its conventional and essentially domestic style and form and for its aesthetic support of the church. The School is of architectural significance for its use of the Moderne style to express a sense of progress and modernity.

COMPARISON:

073 St Joseph's Catholic Church, Tarrayoukyan
093 St Michael's Catholic Church and Presbytery, Glenferrie Road, Harrow
211 St Andrews Uniting Church, Monroe Street, Braxholme
013 Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Church and Henty Streets, Coleraine
069 St Joseph's Catholic Church, Cnr McKebery and Read Sts, Coleraine
303 St Thomas' Catholic Church, McLennan Street, Glenthompson.

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE: 18-May-02

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
Miles Lewis ed.,	Victorian Churches, Their origins, their story and their architecture	1991	6, 9-10, 41, 138
Ray Tonkin, comp.	Warmnambool Examiner, Tender and Other Notices	1973	