

Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 23/04/18



ST THOMAS CHURCH OF ENGLAND, LATER



St Thomas Church of England

Location

a'Beckett Road BUNYIP, Cardinia Shire

Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO5

Heritage Listing

Cardinia Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

St Thomas Church of England, opened on 28 December 1902, is significant to Cardinia Shire as a good example of a turn of the century Arts & Crafts style church associated with the important district family, the a'Becketts. The weatherboarded and gabled church has architectural significance for its design by the Melbourne architect, Frederick Klingender, and for its near original condition.

Regional Significance

Heritage Study/Consultant	Cardinia - Cardinia Shire Heritage Study 1996, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1996;
Construction dates	1902,
Other Names	a'Beckett Road, Bunyip,
Hermes Number	30126
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

This weatherboarded and gabled Arts & Crafts style church has a corrugated iron clad roof and shingle-pattern boards to a square tower set towards one end. The porch is gabled with an open picturesque gabled outer porch attached. There are gabled roof vents, gable crosses and the tower has a broach-form spire, clad with fish-scale pattern pressed metal sheeting. The windows are pointed within a rectangular architrave as are those on the Sunday School hall.

At the rear is a faceted chancel, with a quatrefoil window opening in the central panel.

The chain-wire fence replaces an earlier one.

The interior is clad with boarding set diagonally in panels and includes coloured glass windows dedicated to St Thomas and William McArthur Allander a'Beckett (1833-1901).

This church compares with Church of England designs by North & Williams in Point Lonsdale and at Riddells Creek, both originally timber but the former now reclad.

Physical Conditions

An early view (c1907) shows the church much as it is now except for an arrow-head picket fence around the church yard (replaced with chain wire), the staining of the upper boarding in the tower (painted over) and an iron finial to the spire (modified or gone)⁷. Otherwise the church is externally near original.

Historical Australian Themes

Historical Themes

8.3 Farming townships, e.g. Pakenham Upper, Bunyip

9.3 Churches and cemeteries

11.0 Evidence of: Life style, housing and landscape choice of notable figures residing in the district

Physical Description 2

Associations - Church of England; a'Beckett, Major

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 1995. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place data owner.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>