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# Stained Glass Window at Warrnambool St. John's Presbyterian Church



Warrnambool Presbyterian Church, The Crucifixion, St. John, St. Paul, St. Michael and St. Gabriel, William Montgomery 1920

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## Location

Spence Street, Warrnambool, WARRNAMBOOL CITY

## Municipality

WARRNAMBOOL CITY

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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Heritage Study/Consultant

Vic War Heritage Inventory - Stained Glass Memorial Windows Study, Bronwyn Hughes, 2013;

Architect/Designer

Montgomery, William,

Hermes Number

196935

Property Number

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## Memorial Window References & Acknowledgements

*Argus*, 29 August, 1922, p.4; Letterbooks 4/835-6, 4/850, 4/858-9 NGA Research Collection; Sketch of *St. John, the Crucifixion and St. Paul: Design for multi-panelled stained glass window*, (c.1920), Accn. No. NGA 87.593 NGA Australasian Art Collection; Draft letter Montgomery to JJ Forrester 19 February 1922; Photograph (photographer unknown) of watercolour sketch, William Montgomery Collection State Library of Victoria.

## Memorial Window Subject

Crucifixion St. John St. Paul

## Memorial Window Text

For God King and Country

## Memorial Window Inscription

The window was dedicated by the people of this congregation as a tribute to the men who went and were spared to return from the Great War 1914 - 1918

## Memorial Window Description & History

St. John's Church, Warrnambool, was designed by Andrew Kerr and built in 1876. It was largely destroyed by fire in 1920 and local architect, JJ Forrester, was entrusted with the rebuilding. This included the replacement of leadlight windows throughout, and in November 1921 Montgomery quoted £298.5.0 F.O.B. Melbourne, for twelve nave, two transept, two porch, and three small front windows.

The subject of the memorial window was the *Crucifixion* as a group in the centre light, flanked by *St. John* and *St. Paul*, and *St. Michael* and the *Archangel Gabriel* in the outer panels. The Burning Bush, symbol of the Presbyterian Church, was placed in the topmost tracery piece, with the sacred and secular symbols of peace and victory below. The base panels of the central light held the badge of the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces. The memorial was unveiled on Sunday 27 August 1922. Earlier that month Forrester had written to congratulate Montgomery on the final results: 'I am pleased to say I am very satisfied with the windows. They are finer than I expected. The sketches were beautiful but the windows are more beautiful and this is the opinion of everybody...The big window is a standing advertisement of the skill of your firm. There is nothing second rate about that or any of the other windows throughout...'

The scale drawing, in watercolour, pen and ink, brush and brown ink, measuring 54.4 x 25.0 cm., is held in the National Gallery of Australia collection, and a photograph of the same sketch is in the State Library of Victoria. The Honour Board, unveiled on the same day, contained the names of 138 men who had gone to war from the church.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

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