

ST IGNATIUS CHURCH COMPLEX



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Spire and Front
Elevation



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Spire and North
Elevation



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Western
Elevation



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 South Elevation



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Front - East-
Entrance



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Nave 01



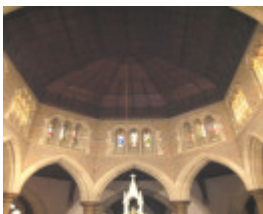
St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Nave 02



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 North Aisle



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Sanctuary 01



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Sanctuary 02



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Fincham Organ



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Presbytery 01



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Presbytery 02



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 Presbytery 03



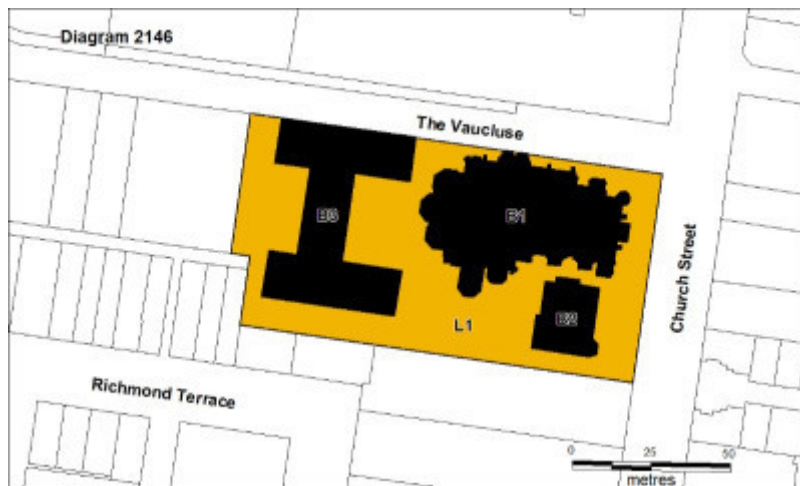
St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 School North
Wing



St Ignatius Church Richmond
3 May 2007 School Hall



St Ignatius Church Richmond
Sept 2007 School Hall Interior



St Ignatius Church Richmond Oct 2007 Plan

Location

326-348 CHURCH STREET RICHMOND, YARRA CITY

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2146

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO359

VHR Registration

February 21, 2008

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 18, 1993

What is Significant?

St Ignatius Church was constructed on a commanding site at the summit of Richmond Hill in Church Street, Richmond. Designed by architect, William W. Wardell, the cathedral-like church was built in stages between 1867 and 1894, with the spire added in 1927-8 by architect, Gerald W. Vanheems. The adjacent presbytery, designed by Thomas A. Kelly, was built in 1872; the school/parish hall to the rear, designed by Gerald A. Vanheems, was built in 1911; and numerous ecclesiastical buildings are contained within the surrounding precinct, west of Church Street.

Due to the rapidly increasing Catholic population in Melbourne in the 1860s, the Irish Province of the Society of Jesus were encouraged to send members to Victoria. Irish Jesuit, Joseph Dalton, on his arrival in 1866, accepted a position at Richmond, and was subsequently instrumental in selecting and acquiring the 1.5 acre site on Richmond Hill, and constructing the church of St Ignatius. The prominent architect, Wardell, who was already involved in the design and construction of St Patrick's Cathedral, East Melbourne, was employed to design the large parish church, and the foundation stone was laid the following year by Dr John Polding, the first Archbishop of Sydney.

The first stage of St Ignatius church, comprising the nave, aisles and part of the tower, was opened in 1870. Designed by Wardell, the supervising architect was John B. Denny who was brought from England by Wardell for this purpose. Transepts were added c.1883 by Wardell and Vernon, and the chancel and apsidal chapels were completed in 1894.

Designed in the Gothic Revival style, St Ignatius church was described at its opening in 1870 as Early Thirteenth Century French Gothic. It is an asymmetrical, cruciform church which, on completion in 1894, comprised a nave; aisles; transepts; apsidal sanctuary with ambulatory; four chapels, three of which are apsidal; and a clerestory to the nave, transepts and sanctuary. The lady chapel was placed on the north side of the church and a baptistery at the base of the tower at the north east corner.

The church is built of coursed axed bluestone with freestone dressings, and has a slate roof with gablets. External decoration is plain with single and multiple lancet window openings and simple geometric Gothic window tracery in the wheel window of the front facade and the transept windows. Internally bluestone columns support the nave and transept arcading, while those supporting the sanctuary arcade are of red granite. The nave roof is of exposed timber trusses with timber lining boards, and that of the sanctuary and the lady chapel are of panelled wood. The spire, added in 1927-8, is taller and thinner than originally planned and the tower base is also taller, however much of the detail appears similar to that proposed by Wardell.

An organ, designed and built by local organ builder, George Fincham, was installed in a gallery at St Ignatius in 1876. It was originally built in 1874 and installed in the Melbourne exhibition building for the Colonial Exhibition of 1875. The organ was moved to the end of the Lady Chapel in 1897 and was relocated to its existing position, south of the altar, in 1989.

From the late nineteenth century, stained glass has been incorporated in the church building, with a concentration in the apse chapels at the west end, installed in the early twentieth century. Decoration of the sanctuary was undertaken in 1914, the marble high altar completed in 1924 and the lady chapel altar in 1925, both by Hallett of Richmond.

The Presbytery was built to the south of the church in 1872 as a two storey house, possibly of brick, with a double storey, cast iron verandah. At some stage after 1897 the verandah was replaced with a bluestone arcade and balcony, and a large two storey polygonal bay was added at the south east corner. The two prominent facades, to the east and north, are now of coursed random bluestone with freestone dressings.

The two storey, red brick school/parish hall building, designed in a Romanesque style, has rendered dressings, a red tile roof and iron balconies and escape stairs. It was constructed to the west of the church in 1911, replacing an earlier school building constructed on the same site in 1876. It was built for the Jesuit fathers, with the sisters from the Faithful Companions of Jesus responsible for the education of the girls. Designed in an H-form, it initially provided accommodation for primary school boys and girls in separate wings, connected by a large parish hall. The latter was originally built with a proscenium, stage, balcony, openable roof and sliding doors to enable the expansion of the hall to accommodate a thousand people. The building was described on opening as 'the most complete and scientifically finished educational buildings in the Commonwealth', with ventilation, light and dust minimisation carefully considered in the design.

Richmond was perhaps the mostly strongly Irish working class suburb in Melbourne in the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century, with links to labour politics. After the post-war influx of southern and eastern European migrants, many of them Catholic, the Catholic parish continued to be an important social centre for the community.

St Ignatius Church, School and Hall are associated with the Society of Jesus, founded by Ignatius Loyola as a religious order in the Catholic Church. The church signifies the commencement of the Jesuit Order in Victoria. It was an early religious foundation in Victoria and Irish Jesuit traditions influenced Australian Catholicism from the second half of the nineteenth century.

How is it Significant?

St Ignatius Church, Richmond is of architectural, aesthetic and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

St Ignatius Church, Richmond is of architectural significance as an important example of the ecclesiastical work of the architect, William Wardell, who became renowned for his Gothic Revival work in Australia. It is the largest church designed by Wardell and exhibits his typically competent conservatism with simplicity of line and plainness of decoration. On its completion in 1894 it was claimed to be the third largest Roman Catholic Church in Australia. It is significant as a major ecclesiastical landmark in Richmond. Conspicuously sited in an impressive manner, it is the dominant element in an important and cohesive precinct with a range of ecclesiastical buildings.

St Ignatius Church is of aesthetic significance for the quality of its fittings and decorative elements, including stained glass and the marble high altar.

St Ignatius Church is of historical significance for its associations with the members of the Society of Jesus, at first all drawn from Ireland, whose traditions and ideas have influenced Australian Catholicism from the second half of the nineteenth century.

St Ignatius Church is of historical significance for its association with the history of the Catholic Church in Victoria. Its size reflects the growth of the Catholic population of both Richmond and Victoria from the 1850s and 1860s and the increasing influence of Catholics in Australian political and social life. The parish hall and school reflect the aspirations of the mainly Irish working class for their children's education while the hall provided a centre for meetings for religious, social welfare and political activities.

St Ignatius Church is of historical significance for the associated buildings on the site, the presbytery and the school/parish hall. The school and hall were used for the educational and social activities sponsored by the Jesuit fathers to assist their parishioners. At the time of opening the large, school/parish hall building was considered as amongst the most impressive buildings for Catholic education in the country.

St Ignatius Church is of historical significance for its organ, which was built by renowned organ builder, George Fincham, the most prominent Melbourne organ builder in the late 19th century. This is one of the most intact

examples of Fincham's early work and the casework is especially notable, with three corbelled towers and lightly diapered spotted metal pipes. It is the only exhibition organ from the 19th century to survive largely unaltered, and appears to be the prototype of the second period of Fincham's organs.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions 1:

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

General Conditions 2:

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Conditions 3:

If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions 4:

Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

General Conditions 5:

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable.

Regular Site Maintenance :

The following site maintenance works are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995:

- a) regular site maintenance provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits;
- b) the maintenance of an item to retain its conditions or operation without the removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the introduction of new materials;
- c) cleaning including the removal of surface deposits, organic growths, or graffiti by the use of low pressure water and natural detergents and mild brushing and scrubbing;
- d) repairs, conservation and maintenance to plaques, memorials, roads and paths, fences and gates and drainage and irrigation.
- e) the replacement of existing services such as cabling, plumbing, wiring and fire services that uses existing routes, conduits or voids, and does not involve damage to or the removal of significant fabric. Note: Surface patina which has developed on the fabric may be an important part of the item's significance and if so needs to be preserved during maintenance and cleaning.

Note: Any new materials used for repair must not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility, obscure existing fabric or limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance. Repair must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements.

Public Safety and Security :

The following public safety and security activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995,

- a) public safety and security activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits;
- b) the erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety which will not adversely affect significant fabric of the place including archaeological features;
- c) development including emergency stabilisation necessary to secure safety where a site feature has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and represents a safety risk to its users or the public.

Note: Urgent or emergency site works are to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified specialist such as a structural engineer, or other heritage professional.

Signage and Site Interpretation

The following Signage and Site Interpretation activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995,

- a) signage and site interpretation activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits;
- b) the erection of non-illuminated signage for the purpose of ensuring public safety or to assist in the interpretation of the heritage significance of the place or object and which will not adversely affect significant fabric including landscape or archaeological features of the place or obstruct significant views of and from heritage values or items;
- c) signage and site interpretation products must be located and be of a suitable size so as not to obscure or damage significant fabric of the place;
- d) signage and site interpretation products must be able to be later removed without causing damage to the significant fabric of the place;

Note: The development of signage and site interpretation products must be consistent in the use of format, text, logos, themes and other display materials. Note: Where possible, the signage and interpretation material should be consistent with other schemes developed on similar or associated sites. It may be necessary to consult with land managers and other stakeholders concerning existing schemes and strategies for signage and site interpretation.

Minor Works

Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Exterior:

Minor repairs and maintenance which replaces like fabric with like.

Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.

Installation and repairing of damp proofing by either injection method or grout pocket method.

Installation or removal of external fixtures and fittings such as, hot water services and taps.

Interior:

Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of any original paint or other decorative scheme.

Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.

Installation, removal or replacement of curtain tracks, rods and blinds.

Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted art or religious works or icons.

Demolition or removal of non-original stud/partition walls, suspended ceilings or non-original wall linings (including plasterboard, laminate and Masonite), bathroom partitions and tiling, sanitary fixtures and fittings, kitchen wall tiling and equipment, lights, built-in cupboards, cubicle partitions, computer and office fitouts and the like.

Removal or replacement of non-original door and window furniture including, hinges, locks, knob sets and sash lifts.

Refurbishment of existing bathrooms, toilets and kitchens including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.

Removal of tiling or concrete slabs in wet areas provided there is no damage to or alteration of original structure or fabric.

Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring.

Installation, removal or replacement of electric clocks, public address systems, detectors, alarms, emergency lights, exit signs, luminaires and the like on plaster surfaces.

Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.

Installation of plant within the roof spaces of the Presbytery and the School building

Landscape:

The process of gardening and maintenance, mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead plants, disease and weed control, emergency and safety works to care for existing plants and planting themes.

Removal of vegetation that is not significant to maintain fire safety to protect monuments, paths, significant buildings and structures.

The replanting of plant species to conserve the landscape character and plant collections and themes.

Repairs, conservation and maintenance to hard landscape elements, buildings, structures, ornaments, roads and paths, drainage and irrigation system.

Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of amenity trees AS4373.

Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.

Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering and drainage systems.

Non-structural works that occur at a distance greater than 5 metres from the canopy edge of a significant tree, plant or hedge, (structural works may require a permit if still on the registered land).

Non-commercial signage, lighting, security fire safety and other safety requirements, provided no structural building occurs.

Plant labelling and interpretative signage.

Resurfacing of existing paths and driveways.

Maintenance of roads and paths and gutters to retain their existing layout.

Painting

Painting will not require permit approval if the painting:

- a) does not involve the disturbance or removal of earlier paint layers other than that which has failed by chalking, flaking, peeling or blistering;
- b) involves over-coating with an appropriate surface as an isolating layer to provide a means of protection for significant earlier layers or to provide a stable basis for repainting;
- c) employs the same colour scheme and paint type as an earlier scheme if they are appropriate to the substrate and do not endanger the survival of earlier paint layers.

If the painting employs a different colour scheme and paint type from an earlier scheme a permit will not be required if

- a) the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed colour scheme, paint type, details of surface preparation and paint removal will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the item;
- b) the person proposing to undertake the painting has received a notice advising that the Executive Director is satisfied.

If the painting employs a different colour scheme and paint type from an earlier scheme a permit will not be required if

- a) the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed colour scheme, paint type, details of surface preparation and paint removal will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the item;
- b) the person proposing to undertake the painting has received a notice advising that the Executive Director is satisfied. Any proposal to undertake such work should be submitted to the Executive Director, detailing the proposed colour scheme, paint type, details of surface preparation and paint removal involved in the repainting, for approval

Non Registered Fabric:

All works including demolition and internal modification to buildings not included in the extent of registration are permit exempt. Additions to building not included on the extent will require either the approval of the Executive Director or a permit.

The construction of any new structures within the boundaries of this registration will require a permit.

Other

* Removal of suspended ceilings from the school wings of the school building.

* Minor internal works that do not affect the structure or the plan layout of the Presbytery or the School building.

Construction dates 1867,
Architect/Designer Wardell, William W.,
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,
Hermes Number 2085
Property Number

History

St Ignatius Church was constructed on a commanding site at the summit of Richmond Hill in Church Street, Richmond. Designed by architect, William Wardell, the cathedral-like church was built in stages between 1867 and 1894, with the spire added in 1927-8 by architect, Gerald W. Vanheems. The adjacent presbytery, designed by Thomas A. Kelly, was built in 1872; the school/parish hall to the rear, designed by Gerald A. Vanheems, was built in 1911; and numerous ecclesiastical buildings, both associated and other, are contained in the surrounding precinct, west of Church Street.

Due to the rapidly increasing Catholic population in Melbourne in the 1860s, and the subsequent shortage of priests, the Irish Province of the Society of Jesus were encouraged by the first Bishop of Melbourne, James Goold, to send members to Victoria. The Jesuits were offered St Patrick's College and the mission of Richmond, which was a large parish extending, at that time, east to Hawthorn, Kew and Nunawading. Irish Jesuit, Joseph Dalton, on his arrival in 1866, accepted a position at Richmond, and was subsequently instrumental in selecting and acquiring the 1.5 acre site on Richmond Hill, and constructing the church of St Ignatius. Wardell, who was already involved in the design and construction of St Patrick's Cathedral (from 1860), was employed to design the large parish church, and the foundation stone was laid the following year by Dr John Polding, the first Archbishop of Sydney.

William Wilkinson Wardell arrived in Melbourne in 1858, having established a successful practice in London where he worked for fourteen years. During this time he saw the development of the Gothic Revival as a major style in England and made the acquaintance of renowned Gothic Revival architect, A.W. N. Pugin. Wardell's conversion to Roman Catholicism enabled him to establish himself as a prominent architect for this religion by the mid-1850s. He continued this after his arrival in Melbourne, where he designed the Cathedral and fourteen parish churches, the largest of which was St Ignatius. Wardell spent twenty years in Melbourne, combining private practice with working for the Public Works Department, initially as Clerk of Works and Chief Architect, and from 1861 as Inspector General of Public Works. His private practice flourished in the 1860s with the design of churches in Melbourne and Sydney. The controversial sacking of Wardell and others from the P. W. D. in 1878, saw Wardell relocate to Sydney and establish a practice there. He went into partnership with W. L. Vernon in 1884 and in the 1890s practised with his son Herbert.

The first stage of St Ignatius church, comprising the nave, aisles and part of the tower, was opened in 1870. Designed by Wardell, the supervising architect was John B. Denny who Wardell brought from England for this purpose. The increased Catholic population in the area in the 1880s put pressure on the existing building and this resulted in the completion of the planned church. Transepts were added c.1883 by Wardell and Vernon, and the chancel and apsidal chapels were completed in 1894.

Designed in the Gothic Revival style, St Ignatius church was described at its opening in 1870 as Early 13th century French Gothic. It is an asymmetrical, cruciform church which, on completion in 1894, comprised a nave; aisles; transepts; apsidal sanctuary with ambulatory; four chapels, three of which are apsidal; and a clerestory to

the nave, transepts and sanctuary. The lady chapel was placed on the north side of the church and a baptistery at the base of the tower at the north east corner.

The church is built of coursed axed bluestone with freestone dressings, and has a slate roof with gablets. External decoration is plain with single and multiple lancet window openings and simple geometric Gothic window tracery in the wheel window of the front facade and the transept windows. Internally bluestone columns support the nave and transept arcading, while those supporting the sanctuary arcade are of red granite. The nave roof is of exposed timber trusses with timber lining boards, and that of the sanctuary and the lady chapel are of panelled wood. The spire, added in 1927-8, is taller and thinner than originally planned. The tower base was also heightened, however much of the detail appears similar to that proposed by Wardell.

An organ, designed and built by local organ builder, George Fincham, was installed in a gallery at St Ignatius in 1876. It was originally built in 1874 and installed in the Melbourne Exhibition Buildings for the Colonial Exhibition of 1875. The organ was moved to the end of the Lady Chapel in 1897 and was relocated to its existing position, south of the altar, in 1989.

From the late 19th century, stained glass has been incorporated in the church building, with a concentration in the apse chapels at the west end, installed in the early 20th century. Decoration of the sanctuary was undertaken in 1914, the marble high altar completed in 1924 and the lady chapel altar in 1925, both by Hallett of Richmond. A number of internal alterations were made after Vatican II in the 1980s.

The Presbytery was built to the south of the church in 1872 as a two storey house, possibly of brick, with a double storey, cast iron verandah. At some stage after 1897 the verandah was replaced with a bluestone arcade and balcony, and a large two storey polygonal bay was added to the south east corner. The two prominent facades, to the east and north, are now of coursed random bluestone with freestone dressings.

The two storey, red brick school/parish hall building, designed in a Romanesque style, has rendered dressings, a red tile roof and iron balconies and escape stairs. It was constructed to the west of the church in 1911, replacing an earlier school building constructed on the same site in 1876. It was built for the Jesuit fathers, with the sisters from the Faithful Companions of Jesus responsible for the education of the girls.

Designed in an H-form, it initially provided accommodation for primary aged boys and girls in separate wings, connected by a large parish hall. The latter was originally built with a proscenium, stage, balcony, openable roof and sliding doors to enable the expansion of the hall to accommodate 1000 people. The building was described on opening as 'the most complete and scientifically finished educational buildings in the Commonwealth', with ventilation, light and dust minimisation carefully considered in the design.

The Lentaigne triptych, date of origin unknown, is thought to have been brought from Ireland by the first two Irish Jesuits, Joseph Lentaigne and William Kelly, who arrived in Melbourne in 1865. It is thought to have been in the Richmond parish since this time. After preliminary assessment of the triptych in 1997 by the Fine Arts Department at Melbourne University, and further assessment by the National Gallery of Victoria and Melbourne University, restoration was undertaken by the Australian National Gallery, Canberra in 2000. Its present location has not been determined.

Plaque Citation

Designed by William Wardell, the church was built in stages between 1867 and 1894. The spire was added in 1927-8. The site also contains a presbytery built in 1872 and a school built in 1911.

Extent of Registration

1. All of the buildings marked as follows on Diagram 2146 held by the Executive Director.

B1 Church (1867-94, 1927-28)

B2 Presbytery (1872)

B3 School (1911)

2. All of the land marked as L1 on Diagram 2146 held by the Executive Director being all of the land described in Certificates of Title Volume 2513 Folio 558, Volume 2513 Folio 559 and Volume 2671 Folio 189.

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/>