

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 03/04/20

Image not found  
[http://api.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/img/owner\\_icons/.gif](http://api.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/img/owner_icons/.gif)

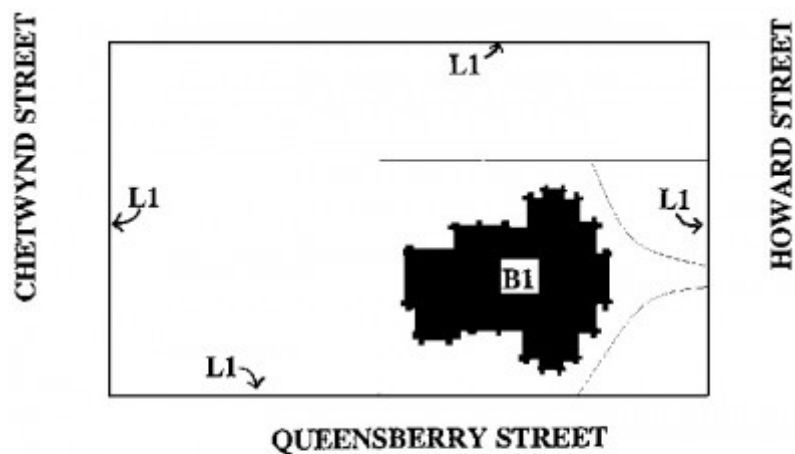
## ST MARYS CHURCH OF ENGLAND



ST MARYS CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
SOHE 2008



st mary's church of england howard  
street north melbourne side elevation  
oct1997



st marys plan

### Location

408-434 QUEENSBERRY ST and 204-208 CHETWYND STREET and 147-177 HOWARD NORTH  
MELBOURNE, Melbourne City

## **Municipality**

MELBOURNE CITY

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H0010

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO296

## **VHR Registration**

October 9, 1974

## **Amendment to Registration**

October 14, 1999

---

## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - July 7, 1999

What is significant?

St Mary's Church of England, now known as St Mary's Anglican Church, situated at 163 Howard Street was erected in stages between 1858 and 1868, with the official church opening occurring in 1860. The church was later consecrated in 1868. This is the third church on the site. The original building was a small zinc building lined with felt and in 1854 a larger weatherboard building was completed for use as a church while also accommodating schoolchildren. St Mary's is in the Gothic Revival style and constructed in bluestone with freestone mullions and window tracery. The architect was Lloyd Tayler and the original contractors were Pepper and Patio. The interior is austere and expansive and culminates in a distinctive vaulted crossing. There were plans for the construction of a tower and spire where the present porch is located, but due to lack of funds the porch was finished without a tower. A tower was built as part of the church in recent years. During the depression years 1928-1934 the church's Parish hall became a centre for hundreds of unemployed people every Friday night. Community hymn singing and other activities went towards cheering people up and in return each person was given a voucher from the church as a supplement to the dole. In 1947 the Diocesan Centre was established at St Mary's to deal with issues associated with living in inner industrial areas. In 1969 the Diocesan Centre changed its name to the Anglican Inner-City Mission.

How is it significant?

St Mary's Church is of historical, social, architectural and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

St Mary's is of historical and social significance as the instigating church for the Diocesan Centre, now commonly known as the Anglican Inner-City Mission. The Diocesan Centre involved eight churches, and was created to deal with the problems industrialisation brought upon churches within the inner city Melbourne area. St Mary's is of social importance for its associations with the depression years as a place in which people sang to earn their dole rewards. The building served as an anchor point for the people of North Melbourne for many years. The structure is of historical importance as one of North Melbourne's oldest buildings.

St Mary's is of architectural significance as a rare example of a church, which uses soaring arches and rib

vaulted crossing. The church is architecturally unusual for its simple interior design at a time when the fashion was for extravagantly elaborate and colourful ornamentation. The church is of aesthetic significance as it is surrounded by attractive gardens and presents a notable composition of bluestone gables. It is of architectural importance as one of the earliest works of architect Lloyd Tayler.

## Permit 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.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations 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 alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

Exterior of St Mary's Church of England

\*Demolition or removal (but not replacement or additions) of the kindergarten, Edith Herd Hall, two-storey brick units and three single-storey red brick units.

\*Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.

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

\*Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method.

\*Repair of boundary fences.

\*Regular garden maintenance.

\*Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering systems, provided the installation of the watering systems do not cause short or long term moisture problems to the building.

Interior of St Mary's Church of England.

\*Repair of plasterwork provided that all new work matches good adjacent work in style, detail and finish.

\*Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings, eg vinyl.

\*Installation, removal or replacement of curtain track, rods, blinds and other window dressings.

\*Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted artworks.

\*Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in-situ.

\*Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.

Construction dates 1858,

Other Names ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH,

Hermes Number 886

Property Number

---

## History

Contextual History:

Church of England

The largest denomination was that of the Church of England which enjoyed the prestige of an established

church. The governor and most officials of the day belonged to it, and its bishops were accorded precedence over the ministers of other denominations. Its adherents formed 35% of the population of Victoria in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Many of the church buildings in Victoria were Anglican, but formed a smaller portion of the total number of church buildings than the percentage of Anglicans in the community (Lewis, 1991, p. 2).

#### Church Schools

During the era of the Gold Rush in the 1850s church schools were the main source of primary education and in 1853 the people of North Melbourne built a combined church and school. This was a small zinc building; lined with felt and in 1854 a larger weatherboard building was completed for use as a church while also accommodating schoolchildren. Further construction occurred to the church over the following years the church school idea continuing through with the Kindergarten Mission School being constructed in 1918. A link was made between the University High School in Parkville and the church. Presently a fibre-cement kindergarten still operates on the church grounds.(The Story of St Marys).

#### A Focus For The Depression Years

With the Depression occurring between 1928 and 1934 the church's Parish Hall became a centre for hundreds of unemployed people every Friday night. Community hymn singing and other activities went towards cheering people up, and then in return each person was given a voucher from the church, entitling them to collect a bag of fruit and vegetables as a supplement to the dole (the Story of St Marys).

#### The Diocesan Centre

From around 1934 North Melbourne had become very industrialised and the church provided extra housing in the form of flats on their land for the expanding population. Industrialisation created many new problems for churches and in 1947 St Mary's became the centre of a new kind of group ministry designed to deal with such issues for inner industrialised area churches. Known as the Diocesan Centre, it eventually included eight churches - St Alban's, North Melbourne; St George's, Flemington; Holy Trinity, Kensington; St Luke's, North Fitzroy; St Andrew's, Clifton Hill; St Philip's, Collingwood; and St Mary's. The centre appointed Priests to these parishes, and backed them with staff, equipment and money. The Priests worked under the leadership of a Director. In 1969 the Diocesan Centre changed its name to the "Anglican Inner-City Mission". This change reflects another stage in the life and work of St Mary's ( Souvenir Booklet, Ruskin Press Pty Ltd, 1953, p. 14).

#### History of Place:

St Mary's Church of England was erected in stages between 1858 and 1868, with the official church opening occurring in 1860 and later consecrated in 1868. An actual church however has existed on the site since 1853 making it one of North Melbourne's oldest buildings.

The Architect was Lloyd Taylor and this is one of the earliest examples of his work. The original contractors were Pepper and Patio.

One building or another connected with the church has existed upon the site since 1854. The original building was a small zinc building, lined with felt and in 1854 a larger weatherboard building was completed for use as a church while also accommodating schoolchildren.

In 1860 the bluestone nave and sanctuary of the present church were built, and by 1868 most of the existing structure had been completed. Plans were afoot for the construction of a tower where the present porch is , with a spire, but due to lack of funds the porch was finished without a tower.

The new Parish Hall was opened in 1914 and the present Vicarage was eventually built in January 1917. In 1918 a Kindergarten Mission School was opened, followed by the tennis courts in 1924.

With the Depression occurring between 1928 and 1934 the church's Parish Hall became a centre for hundreds of unemployed people every Friday night. Community hymn singing and other activities went towards cheering people up, and then in return each person was given a voucher from the church, entitling them to collect a bag of fruit and vegetables as a supplement to the dole (Eyers, 1969).

Due to liturgical reasons the churches style of worship and pews were altered. The alter was originally against the wall elevated on three steps but it was later moved so as to be in accordance with the modern liturgical requirements that people gathered around the alter as around a table rather than looking up to it. The old pews originally filled the present nave, chancel and transepts.

Note that the interior of St Mary's was never actually fully completed and has been changed considerably

from as long ago as the 1920s.

## Assessment Against Criteria

### Criterion A

The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.

St Mary's is of historical significance as the instigating church for the Diocesan Centre, now commonly known as the Anglican Inner-City Mission. The Diocesan centre involved eight churches, which were created to deal with the problems which industrialisation brought upon churches. This change reflects the evolution of church life to deal with the future. The structure is of historical importance as one of North Melbourne's oldest buildings.

### Criterion B

The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness.

### Criterion C

The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage.

### Criterion D

The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects.

### Criterion E

The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.

St Mary's Church of England is of architectural significance as a rare example of a church, which uses soaring arches and rib vaulted crossing. The church is architecturally unusual for its simple interior design at a time when the fashion was for extravagantly elaborate and colourful ornamentation. The church is of aesthetic significance as it is surrounded by attractive gardens and presents a notable composition of bluestone gables. It is of architectural importance as one of the earliest works of architect Lloyd Tayler.

### Criterion F

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements.

### Criterion G

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations.

St Mary's Church of England is of social importance for its associations with the depression years as a place in which people sang to earn their dole rewards. The building served as an anchor point for the people of North Melbourne for many years.

### Criterion H

Any other matter which the Council considers relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended in that the Heritage Register Number 10 in the category described as a Heritage Place is now described as:

St Mary's Church of England, 163 Howard Street, North Melbourne, Melbourne City Council

### EXTENT:

1. All the building known as St Mary's Church of England Proper marked B1 on Diagram Number 602795 held by the Executive Director.
2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram Number 602795 held by the Executive Director being all the land described in Certificate of Title Vol 1079 Folio 203743.

Dated: 7 October 1999

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 41 14 October 1999 p.2265]

---

*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 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/>*