

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: cnr Henty and Church Streets COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 013

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Coleraine

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1 & 2 **SECTION:** 28 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430 J-23; Vicroads 228 C-10; southwest corner of Henty and Church Sts, north of the centre of the township of Coleraine.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: State



Holy Trinity Anglican Church Complex, Henty Street, Coleraine.

Image Date: 09/02/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings including the church (exterior, interiors, fittings and furnishings) and the vicarage (exterior only), the Quercus robur, the Sergeant Arthur William Tippet memorial flag pole and its associated Cupressus sempervirens plantings, and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The form of Holy Trinity Anglican Church is standard for a sacramental plan in the Gothic revival style, with a nave of four bays, a south aisle added later and subsequently remodelled, a vestry and a polygonal apse used as the chancel. The foundation plinth is bluestone and the walls are constructed from a local freestone quarried some three kilometres north of Coleraine between the Harrow and Wootong Vale Roads. The stone is highly variegated with hard ferric inclusions, laid in standard beds and with a rock-face finish. Mouldings, quoins and other architectural details are dressed sandstone, quarried from Tahara. The roof is slate, presumably imported, with some patterning. The west wall includes five very simple lancet windows with early stained glass and a ventilator above shaped as a nimbus with timber louvres. The south aisle was substantially modified in 1990 as part of the 'restoration' of the church to mark its 135th anniversary but roundels of important early stained glass were introduced into the modern plate glass. Various furnishings are of significance including the organ, a brass cross, the brass lectern decorated with cabochons of semi-precious stones, and with engravings of prophets and evangelists, the altar carved from indigenous timbers and the pulpit.

The two storey Federation/Queen Anne style residence immediately to the west of the church is framed in oregon and clad in weatherboards. The boards are cut to simulate shingles on the upper sections. The gables are rough cast and half timbered. The roof is clad with terracotta tiles and the upper sections of the chimneys are rendered and topped with pairs of terracotta chimney pots. The window of the front bay has been replaced. The interiors on the ground floor have been altered. The mantelpiece in the dining room, which predates the house in style, is said to have come from Rev. Russell's vicarage on the south bank of the Wannan. The attic rooms retain much of their original finishes including fine joinery and the polished pine lining boards.

The irregular composition of the house is deliberately picturesque, consisting of a pyramidal roof with steeply pitched gables, dormer windows and tall chimneys. The windows are of different shapes and sizes. Some are double hung sashes and others are casements, newly reintroduced as a feature of the style. A verandah runs around two sides of the residence and its roof is contiguous with the main roof. The frieze is timbered fretwork and the posts are turned timber.

The English Oak, *Quercus robur*, is believed to have been planted by local schoolchildren for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. It now dominates the complex and, by association, it might be read as a metaphor for the English origins of the congregation. In the mid 20th century, the garden, laid out by Mrs J Wishart, was well developed. The original timber picket fence was replaced by a masonry memorial fence, dedicated in 1954, but which has since been replaced by a concrete block fence.

The memorial flag pole in the grounds was erected to mark the death of Sergeant Arthur Tippet, 2/29th BTN AIF "who made the supreme sacrifice Tanbaya Burma 19th Nov. 1943" according to the marble plaque set in the cement rendered base. The Freemasonry symbol of a set square and dividers is set above the inscription. There are four *Cupressus sempervirens* planted at the corners.

HISTORY:

The Holy Trinity congregation dates from 1849. Land was reserved in the original subdivision of the town in 1855 as Crown Allotments 1 and 2 of Section 28. Tenders for the present church were called in May 1864. The church was designed by the Hamilton architect, James H Fox, or possibly by the leading Melbourne architect and Inspector General of Public Works, William Wardell, with Fox as local supervising architect (Lewis, 152). The Church Gazette of 16th November 1864 mentions that "the church would be one of the finest ecclesiastical buildings in the Western District and would cost 2,300 pounds." (Troeth, 114)

The foundation stone was laid on 8th February 1865 by the Rev. Dr Francis Thomas Cusack Russell. The nave with the altar at the west end, and the base of the tower, constructed to the same height as the nave were the first part of the church to be constructed and cost 1,600 pounds. Construction took over two years and the first

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service was held on 4th November 1866. The chancel (or apse) was constructed in 1877, and the altar moved to the east end. The stained glass windows of the apse are a memorial to the life's work of Rev. Russell donated by the local merchant, George Trangmar. The contractors were John Benson and Robert Gaskin, masons and Stephen Searle, carpenter. In 1887 the height of the tower was extended and a set of eight carillon bells, obtained from John Warner and Sons, London in 1886, was installed. These were reported to be the first set of village carillons to be introduced into the colony. The organ chamber and organ by Meadway and Slatterie of Melbourne were added in 1921. The matching stone for the south aisle is said to have come from the ruined Konongwootong Creek Homestead.

According to Pepper (1990), Francis Thomas Cusack Russell was born in 1823 in County Kerry to a well-connected Anglo-Irish family. Educated at Trinity College Dublin, he arrived in Sydney in 1847, and was ordained a deacon. Rev. Russell and his wife Margaret, nee Smithson, arrived in the Coleraine area in 1850, and began the earliest ministry in the district, travelling around the stations to conduct services and tend the sick. In 1851 Rev. Russell took up residence at a parsonage built by Samuel Pratt Winter and Cecil Pybus Cooke on the Wannon River at Winninburn, where he and his wife lived for the next 24 years. He was responsible for the construction of Holy Trinity at Coleraine, as well as the Anglican churches at Branxholme, Casterton, Digby, Henty and Merino. Through his dedicated service and influential connections, Rev. Russell became one of the best loved and most important clergymen in the region. In 1874, suffering ill-health, he took leave of absence, taking a trip to England financed by donations totalling 1,500 pounds from his congregation. During the return voyage to Australia, Rev. Russell died on board his ship in February 1876, and was buried at sea. The chancel of Holy Trinity was erected in his memory by the congregation in 1877.

J McDonald first purchased Allotment 3 Section 28 on January 29 1864. Subsequently the McDonald family, of Bella Vista, Carapook, donated the land to the Church of England Coleraine for the purpose of constructing a new vicarage, to replace the older one located at the corner of Church and Gage Streets. Construction commenced in September 1901 (Troeth, 107). The architects were Ussher and Kemp of Melbourne. Henry Kemp, formerly of Oakden Addison and Kemp, and the younger Beverley Ussher who had worked with Walter Butler, formed their partnership in 1899, developing both the hipped and the gabled forms of the Federation/Queen Anne style (Howells, 57). The partnership's name became synonymous with this distinctive style (Howells, 61). The contractor for the new vicarage was E J Bonham. The original budget was to have been 1,000 pounds but it was completed for a total expenditure of 1,553 pounds and was first occupied by the Rev. R G White. The building was originally designed with a corrugated iron roof, however Samuel Winter Cooke of Murndal donated funds for a terracotta tiled roof. He also purchased the old vicarage for 250 pounds to help finance construction of the new one. Winter Cooke used the same architects to design the substantial extension to the Murndal homestead in 1906. They also designed the Murndal gatehouse, circa 1906, since relocated to Wannon and now called Arranmore. Ten years before, Butler and Ussher, in association with the Hamilton architect, J Moynan, had designed the Dunkeld Presbyterian manse (Tonkin, 1971).

The Holy Trinity congregation used an adjacent site for its Sunday School for many decades. The former National School, on the southeast corner of Church and Henty Streets, was built in 1853 to serve as a church, school and teacher's residence. It was used as the first primary school in Coleraine until 1878, after which it served as a Sunday School and Hall (Troeth, 112).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

- Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
- 8.6 Worshipping
- 8.6.1 Worshipping together
- 8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions
- 8.6.4 Making places for worship
- 8.8 Remembering the fallen
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

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8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

The church is in good condition but there is evidence of continuing settlement. The walls have been repointed with a very hard cement-rich mortar. The south aisle has been substantially modified although with original and significant stained glass roundels reused. The original pews have been replaced.

The grounds are in fair condition, with remnants of an extensive earlier garden. The Tippett memorial is in good condition, as is the commemorative *Quercus robur*.

The Anglican Vicarage has been well maintained and is in very good condition. The original roof of terracotta Marseilles tiles has been lost, replaced with unsympathetic metal tiles. Parts of the verandah and balustrade have been infilled.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity throughout

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Holy Trinity Anglican Church Complex comprises the church with its contents and extensions, the vicarage and the grounds. The church is a well-crafted stone building in the Early English Gothic revival style, typical of ecclesiastical architecture of the period. It was built in 1864 to the design of the Hamilton architect, James H Fox by the builder, Mr Blackstone. The form of the church is also typical with a nave of four bays, one aisle and a vestry on the south side and a polygonal apse as the chancel. The base of the tower, not completed but with a timber belfry is on the northern side. The walls are constructed of a local stone, the roof is slate and the windows are either clear or coloured and stained glass donated as memorials. The building retains a high degree of integrity and is in good condition although with signs of settlement.

The interior of Holy Trinity Anglican Church contains many features typical of 19th century ecclesiastical architecture, including several finely crafted stained glass windows, lectern, altar crucifix and pulpit. Many of the furnishings were donated by prominent members of the Coleraine region. There are several traditional wall memorials to local identities. There is an important pipe organ in the church, made by Meadway and Slatterie, and installed in 1921.

The timber vicarage, built in 1901, was designed by the leading Melbourne domestic architects, Ussher and Kemp who were important for the development of the Queen Anne/Federation style. The contractor was E J Bonham. The building is much altered internally but the attic rooms retain their joinery and detailing. The building is in good condition.

There is one substantial tree in the grounds, a large *Quercus robur*. There is a memorial flag pole to Sergeant Arthur William Tippett, which is surrounded by a formal planting of four *Cupressus sempervirens*.

How is it significant?

The Holy Trinity Anglican Church complex is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria, the community of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Holy Trinity Anglican Church is of architectural significance as an example of the work of the important local architect, James H Fox, and for its possible connection to William Wilkinson Wardell, the significant Melbourne architect. It demonstrates architectural significance for its use of the Gothic revival style to express religious values, for the range and quality of its interiors, including the altar, lectern, several memorials and the

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organ, and as a comparison with the churches of other denominations in Coleraine. The vicarage is of architectural significance as the work of the leading Melbourne domestic architects, Ussher and Kemp and as an early example of the Queen Anne/Federation style.

Holy Trinity Anglican Church is of historical significance as the earliest substantial church to be built in the district, and the oldest to survive to the present day. The early history of the church is closely connected with the ministry of the highly influential Rev. Dr Francis Thomas Cusack Russell. The donation of land, materials and furnishings represents the affluence and generosity of the many important early settlers who belonged to the congregation, including the Winter and Cooke families, the McConochies, McKeberys and Trangmars. The grounds are historically significant for the commemorative Quercus robur and the The complex as a whole is historically significant as the expression of the role and position of the Anglican Church and its congregation in the community for over one hundred and fifty years.

COMPARISON:

020 St Andrew's Uniting Church, Winter Street, Coleraine
069 St Joseph's Catholic Church, McKebery Street, Coleraine
157 St Mary's Anglican Church, cnr Stirling and Bell Streets, Balmoral
304 St Peter's Anglican Church, McLennon Street, Glenthompson
238 All Saints Anglican Church, cnr Burchett and Cobb Streets, Penshurst

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

02-Aug-01

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
Alexander Sutherland, ed.	Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol. II	1888	62
Beverley Pepper	Holy Trinity Coleraine, 1865-1990	1990	
Departments of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Departments of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	
James Smith, ed	The Cyclopaedia of Victoria, Vol 2	1903	544-5
Malcolm Troeth	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988	112-5
Miles Lewis ed.	Victorian Churches Their origins, their story & their architecture	1991	152
Ray Tonkin	Tender and Other Notices from the Warnambool Standard	1971	unpag inated
Trevor Howells & Michael Nicholson	Towards the Dawn, Federation Architecture in Australia 1890-1915	1989	var.