

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Glenferrie Rd HARROW

STUDY NUMBER: 093

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

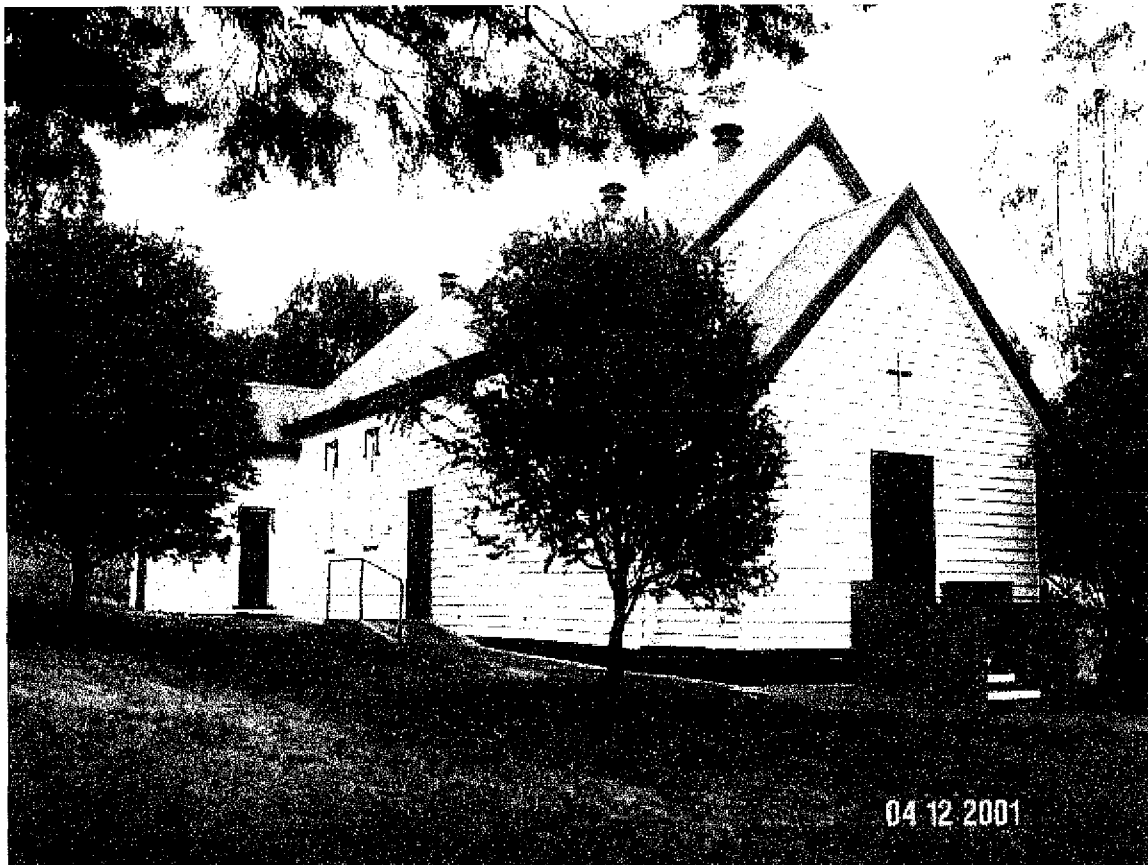
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1 **SECTION:** 1 **PARISH:** PARISH OF MURYRTYM

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 347F-8A; VicRoads54 B4; one kilometre south of the township of Harrow on Glenferrie Rd (the road to Clunie Homestead)

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



St Michael's Catholic Church and Presbytery, Glenferrie Road, Harrow

Image Date: 04/12/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings including church and presbytery, and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

St Michael's is a large timber church in a restrained Gothic revival style. It is located on Glenferrie Road, across the Glenelg River from the main township of Harrow. It was built in 1876 and extended in 1886, but the architect's name, if an architect was responsible, is not known. The form of the church is conventional with a large nave, a porch and transepts. The walls are weatherboard painted light cream. The roofs are corrugated iron painted mid-green with four ventilators along the ridge line. Small crosses act as finials at either end of the ridge line. The doors, to the porch, sides and transepts, are ledge and brace painted dark green. The windows are square headed with simple label moulds. A set of cream brick steps, built after World War Two, lead up to the front door.

The single storey symmetrical Presbytery is adjacent to the church on its north side. The presbytery was built in 1922, and is constructed from pressed red bricks. The hipped roof is covered with terracotta Marseilles tiles. A timber and corrugated iron verandah surrounds the house on three sides. The verandah posts are long tapered brackets and the frieze is a single rail. Timber bay windows, with double hung sashes, are on either side of the large timber front door. Two brick chimneys to the rear complete the symmetrical plan.

HISTORY:

The land on which St. Michael's Church and Presbytery now stand was first taken up by James Blair as part of the Clunie run (Billis & Kenyon, 28). When the township of Harrow was surveyed, this land reverted back to the Crown, but in the first land sales in Harrow, Blair was able to obtain much of the land along the river near the entrance to Clunie; Allotment 1 of Section 1 being part of this purchase in June, 1864 (Department of Lands & Survey, 1957). James Blair (1813-1889) arrived in New South Wales from Ireland in 1835 and assumed various administrative positions, including that of Police Magistrate at the Vale of Clwydd (Hartley). In 1840 he was transferred to the Port Phillip District and became the first Police Magistrate at the township of Portland, then about six years old. From 1843 to 1846 Blair was one of the Commissioners for Crown Lands, taking over from Capt. Foster Fyans, a critically important role during the establishment of squatting runs in the vast Portland Bay district. Blair held various minor offices as well as becoming Police Magistrate for Bourke. Beyond his official duties, Blair was a local director of the Union Bank in 1846 and of the Bank of Victoria in 1863-66, and a patron of many charities. He retired in 1866 and moved to Melbourne in 1867. From 1867-78 he was a director of the Bank of Victoria and its deputy-chairman from 1875 (Thompson, in Pike, 111-2).

In 1862, the people of the Harrow area were lobbying for a church, as services were being held infrequently in nearby homesteads such as Clunie or Pine Hills. Tenders were called for in July of 1876, and the successful contractor was William Hustywade, with a price of three hundred and twenty six pounds. David Edgar, of Pine Hills offered land for the Church to be built on, in Swanston Street. St. Michaels was completed in 1876 and until 1913 continued to flourish. In 1913, the title to the land on which St. Michaels Church stood passed from the Edgar family to a Mrs. Mary Ann Fallon, who did not wish for the church to remain on the land. There were a number of disputes regarding her right to the title, and eventually, James Daly of nearby Clunie donated the present site to the Church. Matters regarding the ownership of the land on which the church stood were eventually sorted out, with the Church offering Mrs. Fallon an alternate block of land, and arranging for the titles to be passed to the Catholic Church.

In 1920, Harrow was made the headquarters of a new Parish, and Father D. McGowan had a Presbytery built on the land donated by James Daly. The bricks were locally made the Presbytery was officially opened on March 26th, 1922. Two years later, the Church was moved from its former location to the present site beside the Presbytery (Harrow Past and Present, 1985).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
8.6 Worshipping

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- 8.6.1 Worshipping together
- 8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions
- 8.6.4 Making places for worship
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

The church and the manse are in excellent condition.

INTEGRITY:

Both buildings have a high degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

St. Michael's Catholic Church and Presbytery are located on Glenferrie Road, approximately 500 metres from the center of the township of Harrow, which is located on the opposite bank of the Glenelg River. The layout is conventional with a large nave, a porch and transepts and the architectural style is restrained Gothic Revival. The architect (if there was one) is not known, but the builder was William Husywate. The Church was constructed in 1876 on land in Swanston Street, in the center of Harrow, but was moved to its current location in 1924. There are a set of post World War Two cream brick steps at the entrance of the church. The Presbytery is located adjacent to the church, and was built on land donated by pastoralists James Daly in 1922. The Presbytery is a simple symmetrical building of pressed red bricks with a timber and corrugated iron verandah. Neither the architect nor the builder of the Presbytery is known.

How is it significant?

St. Michaels Catholic Church and Presbytery are of historical and social significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it Significant?

St Michael's Catholic Church and Presbytery is of historical significance as one of the most substantial churches and Presbyteries to have been built in the Harrow area, illustrating the strong Catholic faith in the township and surrounding areas from the 1860s onwards. Of further historical interest is the forced relocation of the church in 1922, a result of confusion regarding ownership and titles, some thirty-five years after construction. The Presbytery is historically important as it represents the change from Harrow being a part of the Casterton Parish, to the head of its own Harrow Parish in 1920. The Church and Presbytery are of social significance for the role which the Catholic Church has played in the development of the township and surrounding area. Of further social interest is the donation of land on which the Church and Presbytery stand. The donation of this land represents the generosity of many early settlers who belonged to the congregation, including the Edgar's of Pine Hill and Daly of Clunie. The Church and Presbytery are historically and socially significant as a complex which expresses the role and position of the Catholic Church and its congregation in the community for over 120 years.

COMPARISON:

- 098 St Andrew's Uniting Church (former Presbyterian) Martin St, Peshurst
- 237 St Andrew's Manse (former Presbyterian), Martin St, Peshurst
- 159 Presbyterian Church and Hall, Coleraine Rd, Balmoral
- 170 Former Presbyterian Manse, 53 Coleraine Rd, Balmoral
- 214 St Andrews Presbyterian Church (former), Monroe St, Braxholme
- 211 Presbyterian Church Manse (former), Monroe St, Braxholme
- 215 Free Presbyterian Church (former), Monroe St, Braxholme
- 236 St Joseph's Catholic Church, Martin Street, Peshurst

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ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

30-Oct-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
Department of Lands and Survey	Parish of Muryrtym	1957	
Harrow Historical Society	Harrow Past and Present	1985	
Kathleen Thompson, in Douglas Pike, ed.	Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 1	1966	111-2