

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC CHURCH

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: McLennan Street GLENTHOMPSON

STUDY NUMBER: 303

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Glenthompson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 10 **SECTION:** 9A **PARISH:** PARISH OF YUPPECKIAR

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 434J J2; VicRoads 229 M10;

CFA 434J11 , VicRoads 229 N10, located on the west side of McLennan Street, 600m south of the Glenelg Highway

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



St Joseph's Catholic Church, McLennan Street, Glenthompson

Image Date: 29/05/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The church is a simple, traditional if not old-fashioned example of the Gothic revival style. The walls are red brick, presumably from the Glenthompson Brickworks, and are strengthened by conventional buttresses on the side elevations and piers on the façade. The roof is pitched at 60 degrees and is covered with corrugated iron. There are three ventilators just below the ridge line on each face. The church has a nave of three bays and a vestry at the rear. Behind the church, there is a large modern rainwater tank. There is a side entrance on the south elevation. A modern porch has been added at the front repeating the style, materials, and roof pitch of the church. The roof of the porch encroaches slightly on the circular ventilator in the main gable which is detailed as a quatrefoil. The church is set within a modern garden. There are toilets to the south-west. [The interior has not been inspected.]

HISTORY:

The land on which St Thomas' Catholic Church now stands was originally purchased from the Crown as allotment 9 of section 10, by George Thacker Junior on 18th September, 1885. Some time after this, the land was purchased by Mr. John Brady, who subdivided a section of this allotment in 1905, as allotment 9a.

The first Catholic church which served Glenthompson area was at Strathmore (Yuppeckiar) township, located midway between Glenthompson and Dunkeld on the Glenelg Highway. The Strathmore Catholic church was serviced by Catholic priests based in Hamilton and was opened on Christmas Eve 1871.

Mr. Thomas Fitzgerald, of Cherrymount was instrumental in leading the Glenthompson parishioners to establish of St Thomas' Catholic Church in Glenthompson. Mr. John Brady donated the land, and the present church was opened on 27 November, 1904. Early families connected with the church were the Burgess, Fry, Hayes, Higgins, Kearney, Mahony, Malcolm and Walsh families. The church continues to be administered from the Parish of Hamilton.

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

CONDITION:

The church is in excellent condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

St. Thomas's Catholic Church is located in McLennan Street, about one kilometre south of the centre of the township of Glenthompson. The Church is a simple, traditional if not old-fashioned example of the Gothic revival style, constructed of red brick, presumably from the Glenthompson Brickworks. The roof is covered with corrugated iron. The church has a nave of three bays and a vestry at the rear, and a modern porch has been added at the front. The church was opened in 1904, on land donated by Mr. John Brady. The architect and builder of the church are unknown at this stage. The church is in excellent condition with a high degree of integrity.

How is it Significant?

St Andrew's Uniting (former Presbyterian) Church is of architectural, historical and social significance to the

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township of Glenthompson and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

St Thomas' Catholic Church is of social significance to the township of Glenthompson as the focus for the late movement of the Catholic population who settled the area in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Historically, it is significant for its association with the Brady and Fitzgerald families, who were instrumental in having the Catholic Church built and for demonstrating the strong Catholic faith in the Shire. Architecturally, it demonstrates a style of building which is typical of Catholic churches in the twentieth centuries.

COMPARISON:

159 St Andrews Uniting Church and Hall, Coleraine Road, Balmoral
157 St Mary's Anglican Church, corner of Stirling and Bell Streets, Balmoral
069 St Joseph's Catholic Church & School, McKebery St, Coleraine
421 St Patrick's Catholic Church, Martin St, Dunkeld

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

29-May-02

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
Elsie Clabburn, Iris Field, Betty Gordon & Kathleen Dickie	Dunkeld and District, A Short History	1989	
Hope Henry	Glenthompson History	1954	1-3
Shire of Mount Rouse	Mount Rouse Shire Centenary	1964	
