

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Glenelg Highway WARRAYURE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 391

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 3      **SECTION:** A      **PARISH:** PARISH OF JENNAWARRA

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 432 A25; VicRoads 73 E5; located on the south side of the Glenelg Highway immediately adjacent to the Warrayure Fire Station.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Trinity Lutheran Church, Glenelg Highway, Warrayure

**Image Date:** 22/3/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings but excluding the interior of the manse and all of the land.

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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Gothic Revival church, in the north-east corner of the site, is built in red brick with painted cement render dressings. It comprises a nave of four bays, two transepts and a chancel. There is a substantial front porch and porces providing access through the transepts. The timber doors are of ledge and brace construction with exposed iron hinges. The windows are simple lancets with coloured glass. The steeply pitched roof is corrugated iron. There are finials in the form of crosses at the top of each gable. The building is in excellent condition and retains a very high degree of integrity.

The school, immediately to the west of the church and in the centre of the site, is a single storey red brick building in a simple version of the Moderne style. It is asymmetrical in plan with a front porch incorporated under the low pitched roof at the north-east corner. The double doors are flush-panelled. The windows are steel framed. These details and a chimney breast and corner window contribute to its domestic scale and quality. The building is in excellent condition and retains a very high degree of integrity.

The hall, located in the north-west corner of the site, is a single storey deep cream brick building in a style more Functionalst than any other. It has been extended on the east elevation. The roof is sheet metal. The windows are aluminium.

The teacher's residence is at the rear of the site. The original was further east towards the rear of the church, its site still marked by a privet hedge and a domed well. The second house is a single storey asymmetrical cream brick veneer bungalow. It has timber double hung sash windows. The shallow pitched roof is corrugated iron with deep eaves.

## HISTORY:

Pastor C W Schurmann arrived in the Hamilton district in 1854 and an Evangelical Lutheran congregation was established at "South" Hamilton, about a mile east of the township. The first building was a pug and timber framed church with a thatched roof. This would have been similar to the first residences built by Lutherans, some of which still survive. Michael Deutscher had purchased the land, allotment 3 of section 1 of the Parish of South Hamilton comprising some 81 acres, in 1854 and ten acres was subdivided from it for the purpose. In 1855 Oscar Muller was called to become the first teacher using the primitive church as a classroom. More land in the Parishes of Yatmerone and Boram Boram, closer to Penshurst, was made available for purchase and many recently arrived Lutheran settlers bought blocks there. This became the district of Gnadenthal which consolidated as the Tabor congregation. It extended northwards beyond Lake Linlithgow as more Germans settled in the Warrayure area (Garden, 47).

Lutherans in south-eastern Australia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries were seriously divided by doctrinal differences (Phillips in Lewis, 14-5). The personality of leaders seems to have influenced allegiances as well. There was a schism in 1846. The congregations in the Hamilton district continued to look to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of South Australian led by Pastor Fritzsche Lobethal. Pastor Schurmann had died at Bethany in the Barossa Valley attending a Synod in 1893. The other Lutherans in Victoria were further divided but came together as the General Synod of 1876 only to split in 1884. The Lutheran Church Federation was formed in 1920 but still did not include the Hamilton congregations. It was not until 1966 that the two streams came together as the Lutheran Church of Australia.

The strongest Lutheran community was around Hochkirk, later called Tarrington. A new Lutheran church was built at Croxton East in 1884, to the east of Hochkirk and south of Warrayure (Garden, 149). The local architect, John Montgomery called tenders in October 1883 for a stone church (Tonkin, 1971). He also designed the second church at Tabor about this time. Perhaps because of the increase of population caused by the Land Selection Acts in the area and the subdivision of the Warrayure estate (formerly Mount Sturgeon Plains), a new Lutheran school was started there in the later nineteenth century on a part time basis and by 1902

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it was extended to a full school (Garden, 164). "Lutheran services were held regularly in the school by the Hochkirk pastor, E Darsow, until the present Warrayure church was built" (Garden, 149). The foundation stone was laid on 25th March 1909 by Rev W Westermann, the Pastor of the Tabor congregation from 1893 to 1909. No architect has been linked with its design but it is known that the important Hamilton architect, Frank Hammond designed the third Bethlehem Church at Tabor about this time. Nor is the builder's name known. The church was extensively renovated in 1930 (Garden, 218).

As with the three other Lutheran schools at Hochkirk, Tabor and Lake Linlithgow the teaching of German language, history and culture during the First World War provoked antagonism and prejudice amongst the general population. There were calls to close the schools but an examination by an Education Department Inspector in 1916 found no disloyalty (Garden, 191). The campaign against the schools continued for some time after the end of the war. The former day school has been demolished. The Sunday school, manse and hall were built after the Second World War with the last apparently the most recently constructed.

## **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  
8.12 Living in and around Australian homes  
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## **CONDITION:**

All the buildings are in excellent condition.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Existing buildings retain a very high degree of integrity.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

### **What is significant?**

The Trinity Lutheran Church complex now comprises the 1909 church, a Sunday school, a hall and a manse, the last three being built after the Second World War. The site dates from the subdivision of the Warrayure estate (formerly Mount Sturgeon Plains) in the 1860s and the extension north of German migration from the Tabor and Tarrington area. A school, now demolished, was established late in the nineteenth century and also used for worship. Like the other Lutheran schools in the shire, it suffered serious prejudice and scrutiny during the First World War. The present red brick and render church, built in the Gothic revival style, was extensively renovated in the 1930s. After the Second World War a new Sunday school was built, a hall and the manse. All buildings are in excellent condition and retain an excellent degree of integrity.

### **How is it significant?**

The Trinity Lutheran Church complex is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Warrayure and the Southern Grampians Shire.

### **Why is it significant?**

The Trinity Lutheran Church complex is of historical significance as the focus of one of the five important Lutheran settlements in the Shire. It has further significance for its links with the congregations at Tarrington and Tabor especially with which it can be compared.

The complex is of architectural significance as a collection of landmark buildings, spanning several generations and representing the settlement and community of Warrayure. The church is also of individual significance as a confident and enduring expression of the Lutheran faith through its quality and scale.

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## COMPARISON:

382 St Michael's Lutheran Church Complex, Glenelg Highway, Tarrington  
388 Bethlehem Lutheran Church Complex, Tabor Road  
390 Lutheran Manse (Former), 8 Hiller Lane, South Hamilton

## 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
Don Garden	Hamilton, A Western District History	1984	47, 149, 164, 218
John M Janetzki	Tabor 1853-1976 The Pilgrimage of Life	1976	variou s
Walter Phillips, in Miles Lewis, ed.	Victorian Churches, their origins, their story & their architecture	1991	14 & 15

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