

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

name: Church of St John the Divine
Address: 164-166 Baillie Street HORSHAM
Place Type: Church
Citation Date: 2022



Church of St John the Divine, Baillie Street Horsham

**Recommended
Heritage Protection** **VHR -**

 HI -

 PS
 Yes

Integrity

Church of St John the Divine
Hermes No 186088

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High integrity externally and internally

History and Historical Context

Early services of the Anglican Church had taken place in Horsham from its early days of settlement, with Bishop Perry, the Anglican archbishop of Melbourne, holding a service at Horsham in 1858.[1] No permanent church building, however, was erected until the late 1870s. A vicarage and a church were commenced in 1876 and completed in 1877, occupying a prominent site in Baillie Street, facing the end of Firebrace Street. A parish hall was erected in the 1880s.[2] The land and the church had cost a total of £4200. It is unusual, however, that a Crown reserve was not taken up by the Church of England in Horsham for 'church purposes', as was the common practice elsewhere; instead the Church purchased a piece of land at the top end of Firebrace Street. St John's, Horsham was established within the Anglican Diocese of Ballarat.

The original church was built to a simple Gothic design by Lowan Shire Engineer Alfred Surplice.[3] It featured a castellated Norman square tower above the front entry. St John's developed a large and active congregation through the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

St John's celebrated its jubilee in 1927. A new parish hall was built in 1933 for use by the Sunday school and various church groups. By the 1950s the building had become structurally unsound, having suffered significant damage over the years and as a consequence, it was decided to build a new church. This caused some upset in the community as people were attached to their church but the vicar assured them they would have a new church they could be proud of. The architect was Ballarat Diocesan architect G. Richards; the architect's sketch of the proposed new church appeared in the *Horsham Times* on 15 May 1953.

The new church, which used as its core remnants of the 1877 building, was completed in 1957 and opened for public use in 1958. It is notable for its 'expansive wooden ceiling, various stained glass windows, and two significant sculptures'.[4] The modern sculptures are a bronze sculpture called 'Wayside Calvary', by Leopoldine Mimovich commissioned in 1974 and located in the church's garden; the other is a stone sculpture by Wallace Anderson called 'Compassionate Christ' [pre1956] and is located inside the church.[5] The lych gate, which had been installed in the original church in 1923 as a memorial to the local men from St John's Parish who had been killed in the First World War, was retained. The new brick church incorporated into its design some elements of or references to the earlier building (for example the castellated Norman tower), but overall represents a building influenced by postwar design. Its tall and prominent central spire above its central entrance makes St John's Church a dominant landmark at the northern end of Firebrace Street.

-----[1] *Horsham Times*, 1935.

[2] Brooke and Finch, *The Story of Horsham*, 1982, p. 249.

[3] Brooke and Finch, *The Story of Horsham*, 1982, p. 249.

[4] Horsham Arts and Heritage Trail, n.d.

[5] Horsham Arts and Heritage Trail, n.d.

Description

Physical Description

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Pressed cream brick (stretcher bond) Church with gabled roof form, terracotta tiled roof with copper sheet clad octagonal spire to tower. Hard fired clinker bricks to building plinth. Angled brick buttresses to tower. Castellated parapets to front elevation.

Paired stained glass windows in concrete and steel frames. Timber double doors to front entry, timber lined ceiling and timber trusses internally.

Rendered quoin detail to front door opening with decorative rendered detail above doors and to tower parapet.

Copper rainwater goods to tower, pvc rainwater goods and square line gutter to rear section of building.

Front fence - steel plate with cross detail. Internally the church retains face brickwork walls, timber board lined ceiling, and ornate timber trusses.

Physical Condition

Average condition. Cracking to base of building and severe subsidence of ground surface around perimeter of building (generally hard paved / bitumen surface) with garden beds adjacent to east.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

Relevant HERCON Criteria

Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria' cultural history (representative of the development of the Anglican Church in Horsham from the 1850s onwards)

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (as a restrained example of the Post-War Ecclesiastical style, referencing elements of its predecessor but exhibiting design characteristics in keeping with the 1950s materials palette)

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons (as a focus for the Anglican congregation of Horsham)

Comparative Analysis

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 102-104 Baillie Street, Horsham, Hermes no. 186085: Also built 1957 but low integrity post 1971 and less progressive (more traditional) in design

Anglican All Saints Uniting Church, Hunt St, Ouyen, Hermes no. 108478: Constructed 1958, more contemporary form of building (flat roof, separate tower) – also demonstrative of regional town aspirations to support community and spiritual life

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The elements of heritage value of the 1957 The Church of St John the Divine, 164-166 Baillie Street, Horsham, include:

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- . External form of the building, including brick walls, tower, castellated parapet, buttresses, paired stained glass windows, timber front doors and decorative rendered detailing to front entry;
- . Terracotta tiled roof, copper clad octagonal spire, and copper rainwater goods;
- . Front fence with steel plate panels with cross detail;
- . Internally, timber ceiling and trusses, stained glass windows.

How is it significant?

The 1957 The Church of St John the Divine, 164-166 Baillie Street, Horsham, is of historical, aesthetic and social significance to Horsham Rural City.

Why is it significant?

The 1957 The Church of St John the Divine, 164-166 Baillie Street, Horsham, is:

- . Of local historical significance, illustrating the development and growth of the Anglican Church in Horsham; (Criterion A)
- . Of local aesthetic significance, as an example of the Post-War Ecclesiastical style in a regional centre; (Criterion E)
- . Of local social significance, as a focus for the Anglican congregation of Horsham and districts. (Criterion G)

Recommendations 2022

External Paint Controls	Yes
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	Yes Front fence
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	-
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

References

Literature title: A story of Horsham : a municipal century

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Brooke, Brian. & Finch, Alan

Literature publisher: City of Horsham

Literature year: 1982

Literature title: Horsham Times Newspaper

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Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year:

Literature title: Horsham Parish Plan

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year:

Literature title: Horsham Arts and Heritage Trail, n.d.

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year:

Literature title: Horsham in focus: 1849-1999

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Foley, Marie. & Jenkinson, Noelene M. & Horsham Historical Society

Literature publisher: Horsham Historical Society Horsham, Vic

Literature year: 1999

Literature title: Victorian Government Gazette

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author:

Literature publisher:

Literature year:

Literature title: Images and memories: The history and meaning of the stained glass windows of St John's Anglican Church, Horsham

Literature type: General Reference

Literature author: Young, Rona

Literature publisher: Anglican Parish of Horsham

Literature year: 2008

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.