

NATIONAL TRUST CLASSIFICATIONS

The National Trust has recently revised its classification system.

Previously, buildings had been classified in four categories - A to D - indicating the relative importance of each building. This system has now been replaced by a simplified system with two categories - Classified and Recorded - and is now uniform throughout Australia. The Trust regards buildings which have been classified as essential parts of Australia's heritage which must therefore be preserved.

As a result of the recent survey of Caulfield by members of the Trust and Caulfield Historical Society, the under-mentioned buildings have been classified:

"LIRREWA" and Stables
1-2 Lirrewa Grove, Caulfield.
Described as a "suburban villa of 1887 distinguished by such unusual details as the decorative timber valence and brackets and the Tudor/Dutch hall arches and stable gablet."

ST. MARY'S JUBILEE SCHOOL
Cnr. Glen Eira Road and Hood Crescent, Caulfield. Described as "a design by Charles Webb in 1887 with a charming belfry and banded Venetian window heads."

TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
152 Grange Road, Glen Huntly.
Described as "a timber church of American character, first built by the Primitive Methodists in South Melbourne in 1889, but cut in two and moved to Glen Huntly in 1909, since when the round window in the gable has been blocked."

R.H.S.V.

The Society has now become affiliated with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria. Members are advised that they may use the extensive research library of the R.H.S.V. at 422 Little Collins Street, Melbourne and attend the monthly lectures tours, etc., although of course, they will need to pay the normal charges at these functions as affiliation does not allow for completely free use by our members.

Caulfield H.S. now receives a copy of the VICTORIAN HISTORICAL MAGAZINE and the R.H.S.V. NEWSLETTER which are available for the use of our members.

ENQUIRY

Dr. Joan Rydon of La Trobe University is making a study of all members of the Commonwealth Parliament since 1901, but has had difficulty in establishing the date and place of death of two members whose last known addresses were in Malvern. They are:

James BENNETT, born in South Australia in 1864 and married Florrie Syme. No children. He was M.P. for Gippsland 1913-14 before moving to Malvern where he was living in 1916.

Reginald John BURCHELL M.P. from Western Australia before moving to Melbourne. His last known address was Beaver Street, Malvern in 1930.

Any member who has details of these persons is requested to contact the Hon. Secretary.

HISTORIC CAULFIELD

TRINITY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, GLEN HUNTLY

by J. O'DONNELL, B.A., B.Ed.

The history of most of the eastern part of the City of Caulfield is not as old as that of the west, and is less obvious to the beholder as few large mansions were erected in the area. Probably the best known and most "romantic" aspect of its past is the ill-fated Rosstown railway and sugar beet mill built for William Murray Ross.

The lives of the ordinary people however, are also the stuff of which history, and the community, are made. On Saturday afternoon 16 October 1909 "a modest weatherboard building,--- tastefully constructed within pleasing lines and angles and arches, and flanked by a small spire ---a noticeable feature amongst the houses of the people" was opened for Congregational Church services. (2)

The story does not begin here though. The church had arrived at the site some time earlier after having been removed from its previous position, cut longitudinally in half, and transported on wagons drawn by great teams of horses. Even in those days, when moving wooden buildings by this means was not uncommon, it was a spectacular sight and a great occasion for the local population. Elderly members of the congregation remember how, as children, they were held up to windows to see the church go by, or watched the procession from the safety of a tree.(5)

The church's history really begins in 1885 when it was built for the Primitive Methodists on a block of land on the east side of Eastern Road, South Melbourne, south of the Park Street corner. Significant for later events, the site was almost opposite the Wesleyan Church in Park Street. (4)(5)

Unfortunately there is little material which tells us very much about the Primitive Methodists, and even less can be found about their South Melbourne chapel. Although only a minor denomination, the Primitive Methodists appear to have

been a flourishing and forward looking Church, with a number of chapels including one at Brighton (corner of Wilson and Carpenter Streets, built 1851) and missions at most of the Victorian gold-field centres. The Eastern Road church was part of Melbourne First Circuit and opened under the Reverend William Hunt previously of Ballarat. Part of the church reserve was sold, and the church erected on the remainder at a cost of £474, with another £160 "required to finish the surroundings" three months later.(6)

On 1 January 1902, the Primitive Methodist Church joined with the United Methodists and Wesleyans to form the Methodist Church of Australasia. The little timber chapel in South Melbourne, so close to the much larger and more substantial Wesleyan Church in Park Street thus became redundant. Ironically, the chapel survives today, and the Wesleyan building has been overtaken by progress and demolished.

The land for the church in Grange Road was purchased through the gift of £100 by Mr. G. Mercy, and an advance of another £100 resulted in the Congregational Union undertaking the purchase of the "very commodious building" in South Melbourne.(1)(3)

It was a handsome Gothic style building with gabled tower on the left and a circular window above the arched entrance doors. Today, the two halves are held together by metal rods, and the circular window is only visible from the inside. The cutting and removal proved too much for the window's frame and shortly after the re-erection of the church the window developed a dangerous movement whenever the wind blew. Repairs were impossible, and so the window was kept but covered from the outside by a timber mounted cross. An entrance porch was also added, so the original door and its two small matching windows are hidden from the outside. Apart from these additions, the building is basically in its original condition.(5)

When the church was still "new" in Grange Road, it was possible to see the Rosstown Sugar Mill "straight

out the back door".(5) Much of the surrounding area was market gardens which finally disappeared in the post war building boom experienced in Glen Huntly. Progress caught up earlier with the "gas light era" of the church's life when it was converted to electricity in 1914.(1) Now the church stands in a brick residential area, a charming reminder of earlier days.

References:

1. Trinity Congregational Church Jubilee Booklet
2. The Victorian Independent 1909, 1910
3. Congregational Year Book 1910
4. Directories 1883-1911
5. Members of Trinity congregation
6. Clarke, Rev. M. History of Primitive Methodism in Victoria and Tasmania

"CRAIGELLACHIE"

"Craigellachie" in Orrong Road, St. Kilda East, was opened to members of the Society by its owner, Mrs. Newton Francis, on Saturday, 3 March 1973.

This house, built about 1864 and classified by the National Trust, is almost invisible behind surrounding buildings and the grandeur of the interior came as a surprise to members. The house has not been opened very often to the public and the Society expresses its thanks to Mrs. Francis for her kindness.

Footnote: The house was recently sold at auction for \$88,000.

LA TROBE LIBRARY

Members of the Society had a most enjoyable and informative night when they toured the La Trobe Library on 21 February.

The La Trobe Librarian, Miss Patricia Reynolds, guided us through most areas of the library and we were able to see some of the many different types of records available to researchers, as well as items from the fascinating historical collection.



ORIGINS OF CAULFIELD STREET NAMES

CANTALA Avenue (Caulfield) The home of Septimus Miller in Dandenong Road.

CARRE Street (Elsternwick) John Carre Riddell was another of the original grantees of land in Caulfield and built his home "Cavers Carre" in Elsternwick in 1866.

CLARKE Avenue (Caulfield) Alfred E. Clarke, sharebroker, was a one-time owner of "Heatherbrae" and "City father" of Malvern.

CROSBIE Road (Murrumbeena) John Crosbie lived in Murrumbeena Road and was a member of the Caulfield Shire council.

CROTONHURST Avenue (Caulfield) "Crotonhurst" in Hawthorn Road was built for George Henry Frederick Webb, Puisne Judge of the Victorian Supreme Court.

DANBY Street (Caulfield) Henry Danby was a member of the firm of Danby and Gilmour, Accountants, and lived at "St. Aubins" in Orrong Road. The name of this street was changed to AROONA Road.

DAVIS Street (Elsternwick) Peter Davis was an original grantee of land in Elsternwick and held the land where "Rippon Lea" now stands. The section of the street to the east of the railway was changed to SINCLAIR Street.

MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held at the Caulfield Town Hall on Wednesday 18 April at 8.00p.m. The speaker will be

Mr. BARRETT REID

Executive Officer of the Public Libraries Division of the Library Council of Victoria. Mr. Reid is a bright and stimulating speaker, and members should have both profit and pleasure from his address. Its title is "Library Development in Caulfield, with Some Glances at the Past".

The meeting for 20 June will be an excursion to the Moorabbin Historical Research Centre. Further details will be advised in the next NEWSLETTER .

NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Dr. Sir Irving Benson and Lady Benson
Mr. E.H.Marcuse

LIFE MEMBER

Sir Edgar Tanner, Kt., C.B.E., E.D.,M.P, has been elected as the Society's first Life Member.

Sir Edgar has been a Member of the Legislative Assembly for Caulfield since 1955 and was knighted in 1968. The Society extends its congratulations to Sir Edgar on his recent appointment as President of the Australian Olympic Federation.

CAULFIELD ROAD DISTRICT - PROCLAMATION

EXTRACT FROM VICTORIA GOVERNMENT GAZETTE No. 120 - Friday 16 October 1857

By His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Captain General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Victoria, and Vice Admiral of the same, etc. etc.

Whereas by an Act of the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Council of the Colony of Victoria, passed in the Sixteenth year of Her present Majesty's Reign intituled "An Act for making and improving Roads in the Colony of Victoria", it was amongst other things enacted, That it should be lawful for the Lieutenant Governor, from time to time, by notice in the Government Gazette, to proclaim and declare any such portion of the said Colony as to him should seem desirable as and to be a road district for the purposes of the said Act contained, and also to define the boundaries of every road district thereby proclaimed and declared, and to give a specific name of designation to every such road district: Now therefore, I, Sir Henry Barkly, the Governor of Victoria, in pursuance of the power so vested in me by the said Act, and of every other power and Authority enabling me in this behalf, do hereby proclaim and declare that the district hereinafter defined shall be a road district for the purposes in the said Act contained, that is to say: - Commencing at a point on the south side of the main Dandenong Road, being the north-western angle of the cemetery reserve, in the parish of Prahran; thence south by a Government road to the main Brighton Road, at the south-western angle of portion 270 in the same parish; thence south-easterly by the main Brighton road to the northern boundary of the parish of Moorabbin; thence east by the northern boundary of the said parish of Moorabbin to the parish of Mulgrave; thence north by the western boundary of the said parish of Mulgrave to the main Dandenong Road; and thence north-westerly by the said main Dandenong Road to the commencing point.

And I do hereby further proclaim and declare that the specific name of designation of such road district shall be "The Caulfield Road District".

Given under my Hand the the Seal of the Colony, at Melbourne, this fifteenth day of October, in the year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, and in the twenty-first year of Her Majesty's Reign.

(sgd)

HENRY BARKLY

By His Excellency's Command

(L.S.)

(sgd)

DAVID MOORE

President of the Board of Lands & Works