

**Place name** St Paul's Anglican Cathedral

**Survey Date:** 4/07/2004

**Other name**

**Id:** 1142

**Street** 149 Cunninghame Street

**Last Update** 28/09/2004

**Locality** Sale

**Postcode**

**Official Locality**

**Property No**

**Local Government Area** Wellington Shire

**Precinct:** Precinct - Sale Victoria Park

**Easting**

**Northing**

**Map**

**Workshop number**

**Workshop votes**

**Field survey number**

**Community priority**

**Designer** Nathaniel Billing

**Builder** George Wynd

**Ownership** Private

**Built Date** 1883 **Change Date**

**Description** St Paul's Anglican Cathedral is situated on the north side of Cunninghame Street facing Victoria Park. Built in red brick with rendered dressing on buttresses and parapets, this Church demonstrates the Mainstream Decorated Gothic style. It has a dominant nave with lofty gable roof and smaller chancel section. The use of polychromy was typical of Billing's ecclesiastical work at this time and representative of the influence of Venetian Gothic architecture and the writings of John Ruskin. A series of stained glass windows are features of the side walls and chancel. The facade features a spectacular five light window depicting the Sermon on the Mount and complete with stone tracery.

Alterations to the exterior do not impact significantly on the original form of the building and include a concrete ramp to the side and the attachment of the small timber vestry to the chancel via a covered walk way. To the east of the chancel a new building attaches the Church to the Chapter House (former manse). An organ originally installed in 1884 is intact, as is the stone font dating from the earlier church in Raymond Street.

Externally, the Church appears to be intact apart from minor changes to the rear of the building.

**SOURCE**

Register of the National Estate, Place ID 100613

Feature	Style	Wall Materials	Roof Materials
Cathedral	Gothic	Brick	Slate

**Condition** Good

**Integrity** Minor Modifications

Redevelopment/change
Community

Building

**History** The first Anglican church services to be held in Sale, were celebrated in the homes of local residents, which was common practice in country areas. The first holy communion service was held in the timber slab, single room building which was the home of Dr Peck and his wife. A large room in the Woolpack Inn was also used for this purpose. (2)

In 1856, building of the first church, designed by Nathaniel Billing as a simple brick Gothic building, was commenced on the site of the present St Anne's and Gippsland Grammar Primary School site. In 1860, a stone font was donated to the church, and was later transferred to the cathedral. (2)

Plans were made to construct a new church on this site in 1882, and the Raymond Street church was used as a parish hall until the Divinity Hostel was built in its place.

The architect Nathaniel Billing was again commissioned to design the building (2). Billing is widely associated with a revival in polychromatic Gothic designs in his church architecture at this time, demonstrating the influence of John Ruskin(6).

George Wynd is presumed to be the builder and is mentioned in the 'Gippsland Times' report of December 1883 in connection with the laying of the foundation stone.(2) However, the Argus of November 6, 1886 lists M. Wain as the contractor (3). Wynd also built St Mary's Cathedral. A stained glass window, memorial to Dr Floyd Peck, a

surgeon who died in 1863, was removed from the old church and installed in the chancel.(4)

A pipe organ was purchased from Fincham of Mitcham, and installed in 1884 and fully restored recently, in 1981.(3)(2)

The Anglican Diocese of Gippsland was proclaimed in 1902, and Sale became a See. Subsequently, the Anglican Diocese of Sale was formed under Bishop A.W. Pain and the church became a cathedral.(5) In 1906, the wooden vestry which still stands at the rear of the site, was built and housed this function until 1982, when the new additions were added.(1) The window in the facade, known as the Great West Window, was designed by Philip Handel of Sydney, and installed in 1957.(2)

#### SOURCES

- (1) National Trust of Australia (Vic), File No. 6119.
- (2) Booklet commemorating the Centenary of St Paul's Cathedral, Sale; 'Gippsland Times', 19/12/1883.
- (3) Lewis, M. B., Australian architect's index'.
- (4) Information supplied by Peter Synan.
- (5) The Cathedral Church of St Paul, Sale.
- (6) Lewis, M., 'Victorian Churches', p.23.

Heritage Protections	Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
	National Trust Register	B6019		File only
	Planning Scheme	HO100		Listed
	Register of the National Estate	100613		Recommended

#### National Estate

#### Research Required

**Recommendations** Assess interior of church, and consider the application of internal alteration controls via the planning scheme if warranted.

#### Fieldwork priority?

**Stage 1 Ranking** Assessed: Sale Heritage Stu **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

**Final Ranking** Local significance **Final Recommendation**

**Statement of significance** A substantial Gothic church built in brick, St. Paul's Cathedral is an important part of the heritage of Sale as evidence of the history of the Anglican Church in Sale, and for architectural reasons.

The church is historically and symbolically associated with the establishment of the regional importance of the Diocese of Sale, which became a See several years after the church was built.(A.4, H.1)

Architecturally, the building has design value as an example of the work of notable ecclesiastical architect Norman Billing, and is an outstanding landmark in its residential environment. The church and its associated buildings form a complex which has symbolic importance as a focus of community activity over a long period.(E.1, F.1) (RNE 100613)

#### Extent of designation

#### Informant

#### Notes

#### Follow up

**Bibliography** Context Pty Ltd, (1994), City of Sale Heritage Study  
Context Pty Ltd, (2004), Shire of Wellington Heritage Study: Sale Review

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Cunninghame Street 0149, ID 1142.jpg

Context

1/01/1994



Update Cunninghame Street 0149, ID 1142i.jpg.jpg

Peter Synan

1/01/1994



Update Cunninghame Street 0149, ID 1142ii.jpg.jpg

Kristy Crawford

20/02/2007

