

TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Tungamah Church PRECINCT

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TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

LOCATION

The Tungamah Church heritage precinct is located astride Tungamah Road (north Barr Street), encompassing the hill dominated by its three churches and as such its views and general integrity are a significant and distinctive landmark in the Tungamah area.

Refer to the map in Fig 1 for the boundary details.

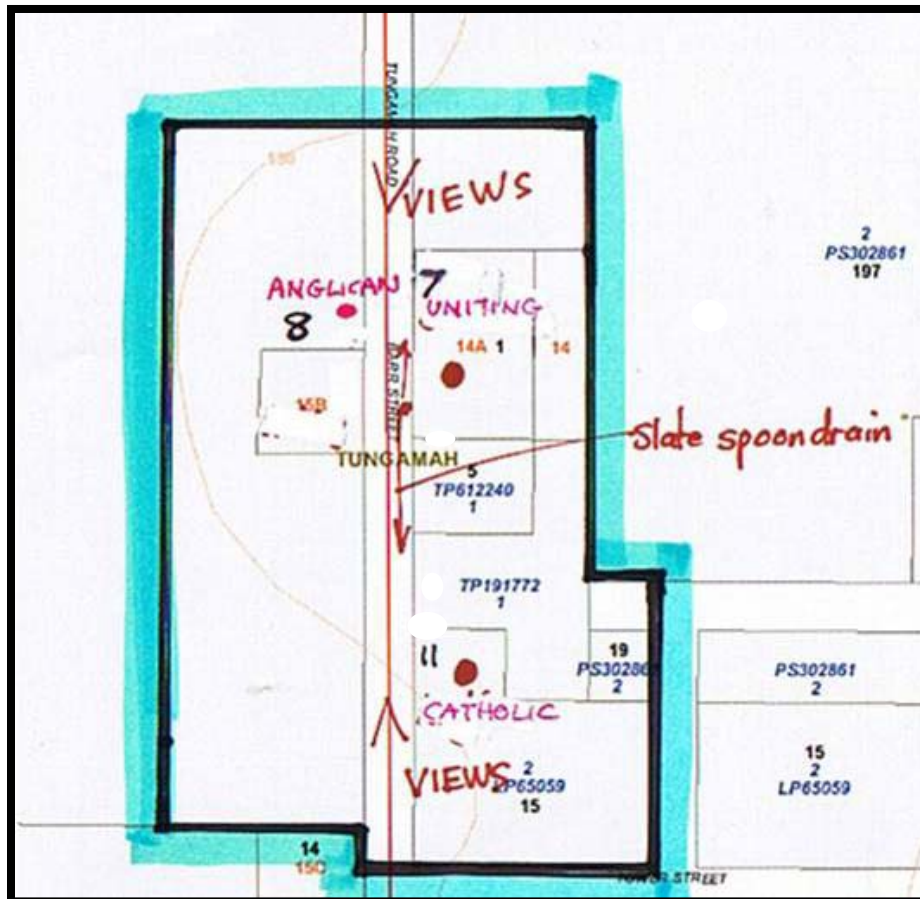


Fig. 1 Map of Tungamah Church Precinct with location of 4 significant places and views marked with red dots and arrows. Refer to the photo list of these places in the appendix.

TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Table One: List of Culturally Significant Places, their location , database number and historical context. Source Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2006.

<i>Historical Context</i>	<i>Date of Place</i>	<i>Extant Places within the Tungamah Church Precinct</i>	<i>Location</i>
Victorian Era			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tungamah Mechanics' Institute and Free Library was erected in 1883 	1885	Uniting (Former Presbyterian) Church	7 Barr Street (Hill)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land: Bailey Subdivision 1885 	1886	Our Lady of Good Counsel Roman Catholic Church	11 Barr Street (Hill)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure: timber bridge 1883 over Boosey Creek 	1889	St. Alban's Anglican Church	8 Barr Street (Hill)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening of Railway 1886, courthouse 1889-90, post office 1890. 	c 1970	Slate roadway spoon drains	Barr Street (Hill)



Fig 2 Typical view looking north into the precinct, showing the impressive scale, materials, colours and form of the Catholic Church with large open spaces and sky as important context background setting for the picturesque composition . Source: Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005.

TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

Historical Context¹

The precinct sits to the north of the original 1875 township survey and north of the Bailey Estate subdivision of 1885.² It is distinctive as a concentration of religious buildings and grounds on a prominent hill.

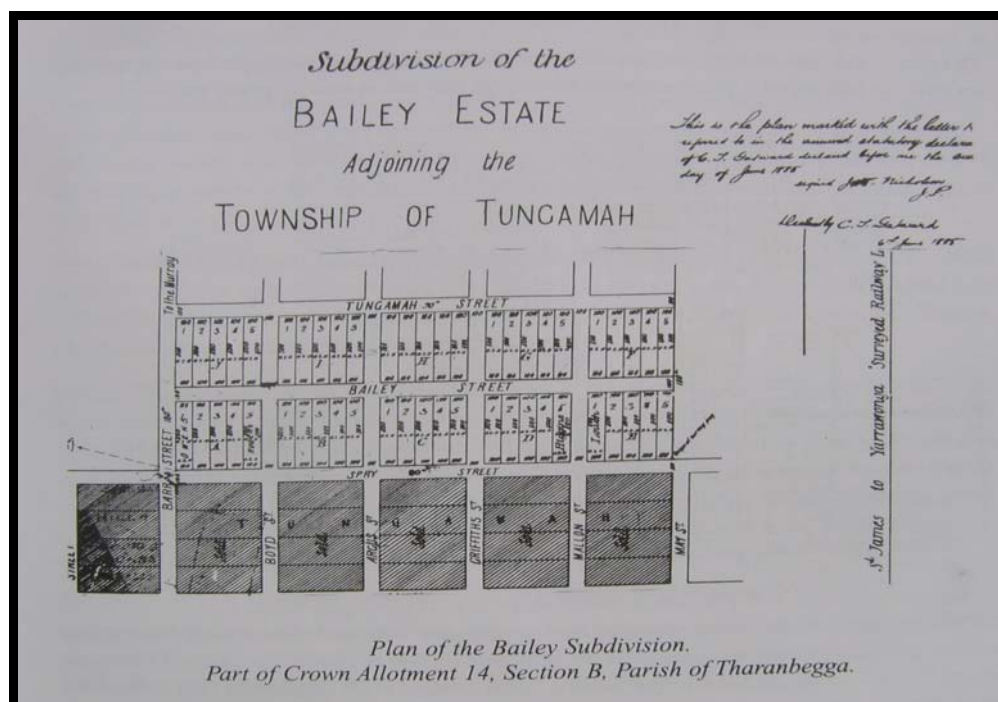


Fig 3 The southeast corner of the precinct was on the boundary of the 1885 Bailey Estate urban subdivision.
(Map below) Source: Campbell

All of the churches were built in the 1880s when the town was reaching its peak population. The arrival of the railway to Tungamah in 1886 increased the viability and prosperity of the town as indicated in the population figures. The *Municipal Directory* indicates a particularly rapid growth in population from 250 in 1887 to between 500 and 600 residents in 1889.³ This period of growth in settlements and population soon saw the division of this Shire into the Shires of Tungamah and Yarrawonga in 1892.⁴ By 1903 there were 1357 dwellings in the Shire and many of the occupants from outside the town centre attended these churches. An increase in population caused the construction of extensions to the Catholic church in 1907. However, although the population of the Shire of Tungamah increased somewhat during the post war period, that of the town decreased from its peak in the 1890s to 305 in 1996.

A 1911 lithograph shows a clay hole, bricks, and hut on land owned by E. Kyne west of the ford on the south side of the creek. Local bricks from kilns north and south of the creek were used for the construction of buildings in the town including the Victoria Hotel (demolished), Post Office, former National Bank and the three churches on the hill.

TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

Tungamah Uniting Church (1885), 7 Barr Street, Tungamah

DB 641

The Tungamah Uniting Church in Barr Street is Tungamah's oldest extant church and was formerly the Tungamah Presbyterian Church. It became the Uniting Church with the merger of the Presbyterians and Methodists in 1977. Local church treasurer John Heggie laid the foundation stone in April 1885 and Rev Souter opened the church for worship that August.⁵ The *Tungamah and Lake Rowan Express* described the new church as 'neat and commodious [...] lighted by six Gothic windows.'⁶ It cost £380 and was constructed of brick.

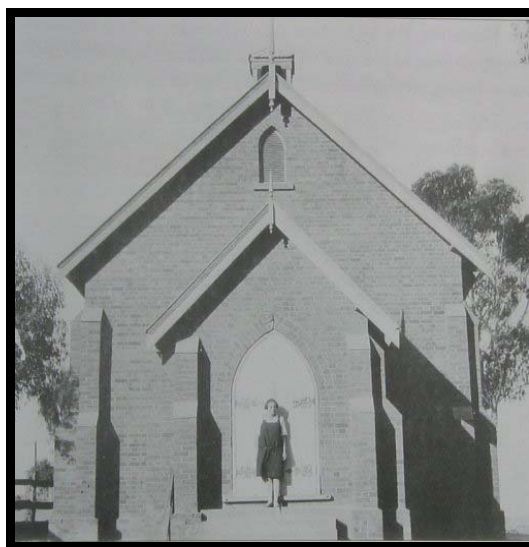


Fig 4. Tungamah Presbyterian Church in c.1925
Source: Campbell 2002.



Fig. 5 Tungamah Uniting Church. Note the spacious setting with sky and trees, and the slate spoon drain in the foreground. Source: Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd. 2005

TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church (1886) 11 Barr St, Tungamah

DB 642

In 1885 the southeast corner of the precinct formed part of the Bailey urban subdivision. It was precisely in this year that the Roman Catholic Church committee purchased the land for the church from Mr J. Bailey.⁷ The church opened in 1886, and consisted of the central block 50ft by 22 ft. With the growing population of Tungamah including a larger Catholic congregation in the early twentieth century, extensions were added in 1907, and the Stations of the Cross in 1917.⁸



Fig 6 Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, photographed c. early 20th Century
Above: Source: Campbell 2002. Below: Source Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005.



TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

St. Alban's Anglican Church (1889. ext. 1913), 8 Barr Street, Tungamah DB 639

The St Alban's Anglican Church is the more recent of Tungamah's churches but also dates to the Victorian era and followed soon after the construction of the Presbyterian and Catholic churches in the vicinity. Religious communities in Tungamah were relatively close knit, in contrast to the sectarianism that divided many, and this is reflected in the history and location of its churches. The land donated to the church by Frederick Seidel was given on the condition the church would also be available to the Lutheran community in Tungamah.⁹

The *Moira Independent* described the church following its opening on 20th October 1889:

The building is a handsome brick edifice, neatly plastered throughout, with a lofty roof ceiled with varnished kauri pine, from which depend three handsome lamps, each containing three illuminators. At the east end of the church is a temporary platform of two tiers, carpeted with crimson cloth; the upper platform being railed off, forms the sanctuary [...] The pews are of neat cathedral pattern, executed in plain white wood.

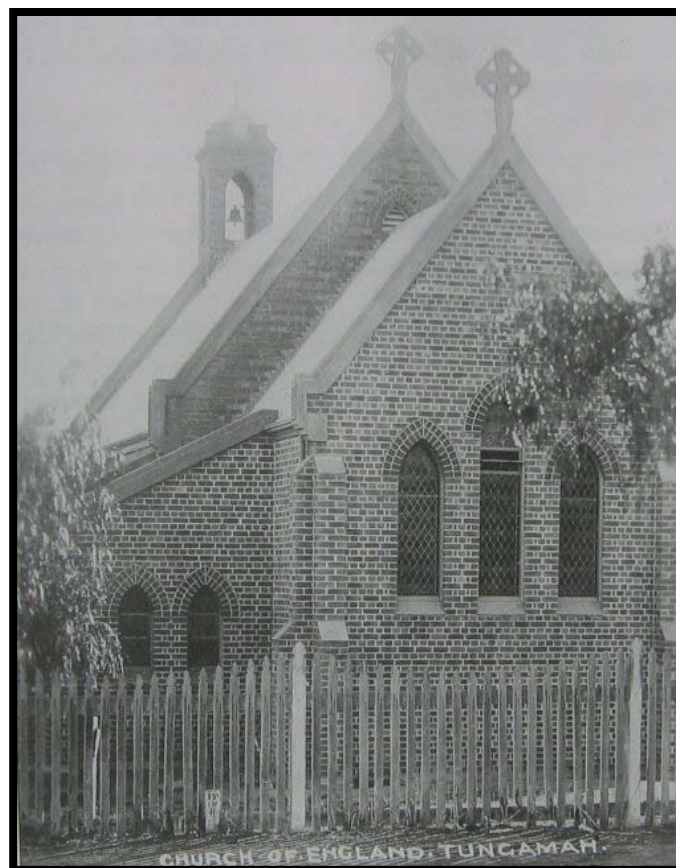
The builder was T. Farr and the cost £500, with a design 'much more beautiful, as it includes a highly ornamental chancel at the east end.' This chancel was finally erected in 1913, with the delay caused by limitation in funds.¹⁰

Fig 7 Right: St Alban's Anglican Church, Barr Street, photographed shortly after the 1913 additions.

Source: Campbell 2002.



Above. Source: Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd 2005.



TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

URBAN DESIGN, VIEWS AND FOCI

Historic road infrastructure of particular significance is extant at Tungamah, where a twentieth century slate spoon drains is a defining feature of the Church Heritage Precinct. The only other hand made spoon drains in the shire are constructed in brick and are in Nathalia where nineteenth century gutters are in front of the historic Brown, Corke and Co. store in Elizabeth Street.



Figs 6 and 7. Slate spoon drains along parts of Barr Street, in the Church Precinct detail above and overview below (See Fig 1 for location on map). DB 643
Source: Lorraine Huddle Pty Ltd. 2004



Slate spoon drains constructed in the 1970s as part of an unemployment relief project, managed by Shire Engineer Colin Campbell. The slate is from the local Kirnes Quarry.¹¹

TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

Culturally Significant Places : The buildings and their setting.

The three red brick and galvanised iron Gothic churches form a strikingly picturesque landmark because of the similarity of their architectural style, materials and orientation to the road. They have a large amount of space around them and various picturesque views are created of the group of buildings from various approaches to the site. The importance of large areas of land surrounding them is recognised in the boundaries of the precinct. Reconstruction of the missing elements, particularly the picket fences along Barr Street would enhance the aesthetic charm of these buildings and the precinct.

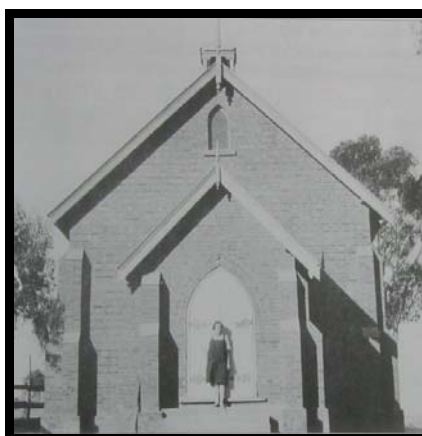
Tungamah Uniting Church (1885), 7 Barr Street, Tungamah

DB 641



Fig 8. 1885 Uniting Church, 7 Barr St. Source: Lorraine Huddle 2004.

The Gothic design has a high degree of integrity with unpainted red brick walls and buttresses, lancet windows and doors. However, missing elements include; timber finials have been removed from the apex of each gable and the bell/ventilation turret from the roof ridge. Alterations include the removal of the subtle design of unpainted cement render trims by painting in white/cream.. The lapped galvanised corrugated iron roof has been reclad in single length sheets.



TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church (1886) 11 Barr St, Tungamah

DB 642



Fig 9. 1886 Catholic Church, 11 Barr St. Source: Lorraine Huddle 2004.

The Gothic design has a high degree of integrity and includes the short sheet galvanised iron (not zincalume) roof, ventilating gablets, finials in the form of crosses and unpainted red brick walls and buttresses. However, missing elements include the picket fence; Alterations include the removal of the subtle design of unpainted cement render trims by painting in white/cream.



TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT



Fig 10. 1889 St Alban's Anglican Church, 8 Barr St. The Gothic design has a high degree of integrity with unpainted red brick walls and buttresses, lancet windows finials in the form of celtic crosses, and brick bell tower.
Source: Lorraine Huddle 2004



TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE¹²

Tungamah Church Precinct

The history and description, which precedes this Statement of Cultural Significance, is the source of evidence for the statement below.

The **Tungamah Church Precinct is aesthetically significant on a local level** (AHC criteria D.2, E.1, F.1) as a visually cohesive picturesque landmark site on the crest of a hill, and historical landmark in the history of Tungamah, particularly associated with its development in the 1880s during a time of railway and land expansion (AHC A.4). It demonstrates original and early design qualities in the orientation, setbacks, exterior and interior design and materials associated with the development of fine late Victorian religious buildings commenced between the 1885 and 1889. These include the short sheet galvanised iron roofed red brick with unpainted render trim on gothic styled churches, finials and leadlight. They have substantial setbacks which create a sense of spaciousness from the public realm. The area is enhanced by several views to and from the features above, but particularly as one approaches the crest of the hill on which they are sited. The informal road finish (ie no concrete kerb and channel), trees, and substantial space between buildings contributes to the country setting and sets it apart from urban development in big towns. All three churches owe their design and location to the Victorian era and the 1880s, while some of those designs were ultimately completed in the early twentieth century and thus also mark the continuing development of Tungamah in the Federation period. (AHC A.4)

The **Tungamah Church Precinct is historically and socially significant** on a **LOCAL** level through its association with the religious and cultural development of Tungamah (AHC A.4, H.1, G.1) and for its continuous association with major religious and cultural communities in the area.

The **Uniting Church (1885) is historically and socially significant on a local level** for its close association with the Presbyterian and (since 1977) the Uniting Church community in Tungamah (AHC H.1); **Our Lady of Good Counsel Roman Catholic Church (1886) is historically and socially significant on a local level** as the religious centre of the Roman Catholic community in the town (AHC H.1) and **St Alban's Anglican Church is historically and socially significant on a local level** for its association with the Church of England (Anglican) community in Tungamah. (AHC H.1)

The **slate spoon drain in Barr Street is historically, aesthetically and scientifically significant on a local level** as a rare example of the use of slate for this purpose and one of the few early examples of engineering road infrastructure remaining in the whole shire. (AHC C.2, H 1,

The **Tungamah Church Precinct is scientifically significant** on a **LOCAL** level through its importance for information contributing to an understanding of the history of human occupation and the cultural history of the area in the 1880s through the use of locally made bricks for the buildings, and it has a strong presumption of archaeological research potential. (AHC C2, F1)

Overall, the Tungamah Church Precinct is culturally significant (AHC A4, C2, D2, E1, F1,) at the LOCAL level.

TUNGAMAH CHURCH PRECINCT

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- 1 Incorporating material from *Moirā Shire Thematic Environmental History*. Sources: *VMD*, 1994, p. 649; Watson, *Forgotten Towns*, p. 347; *Vision and Realisation*, Vol. 3. pp. 799, 866-7; *VMD*, various years - see Appendix A; Gazetteer of Australian Cities; Wise's Victoria Post Office Directory 1884-1885, 1888-1889; Bossence, *Numurkah*, pp. 97, 105, 119-21, 146, 155, 334-5, 341-3; Plan of Township of Numurkah, 1918. Source: State Library of Victoria, Maps collection; Baragwanath, Pam, *If The Walls Could Speak : A Social History of the Mechanics' Institutes of Victoria*, Mechanics Institute Inc., Windsor, 2000, p. 221; Challinger, *Historic Court Houses of Victoria*, p. 147; Clark, Ian & Heydon, Toby, *Aboriginal Placenames of Victoria*, Database on CD-Rom, Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages, Melbourne, 2002.
- 2 Campbell, p.3.
- 3 See also Campbell, p.6.
- 4 Cabena, Peter & McRae, Heather & Bladin, Elizabeth, *The Lands Manual: A Finding Guide to Victorian Lands Records 1836-1983*, Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 1992, pp. 3-4; Dunlop, Alan J, *Wide Horizons : The story of Yarrawonga, Tungamah and Cobram Shires*, Alan Dunlop, Bentleigh, 1978, pp. 30-31; *Township and Parish Guide Victoria 1955*, pp. 25-57; Monash University 'Gazetteer of Australian Cities, Towns and Suburbs' web site. <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/ncas/multimedia/gazetteer/list/> .
- 5 Campbell, p.39.
- 6 *Tungamah and lake Rowan Express*, 9 April 1885.
- 7 Campbell, p.4-.
- 8 Campbell, p.4-
- 9 Campbell, p.41
- 10 Campbell, p.42.
- 11 Verbal advice to Lorraine Huddle from Colin Campbell, former Shire Engineer.
- 12 Definitions used are from the Burra Charter 1999; historical themes relate to the Principal Australian Themes – Australian Heritage Commission; criteria for Locally Significant places are from the Australian Heritage Commission and in the case of State Significant places, from Heritage Victoria; levels of significance used are State and Local, which directly relate to the two legislative authorities who administer the protection of heritage places, the State Government and Local Government respectively