

# Indigo Shire Heritage Study 2002

<b>Name:</b>	Christ Church	<b>Reference No:</b>	BEEC168
<b>Address:</b>	Ford Street, cnr Church Street	<b>ISC Property No</b>	
<b>Town/Place:</b>	Beechworth	<b>Locality</b>	Beechworth
<b>Other Names</b>		<b>Significant Elements:</b>	
<b>Related Places:</b>		1. Christ Church	
<b>PAH Theme:</b>	8.6 Worshipping	2. Organ	
<b>Site Type:</b>	Church	3. Sunday School [Church Street]	
<b>Property Details:</b>	CA 1 & 20 Section 7 Township of Beechworth		
<b>Map Reference:</b>			
<b>LGA:</b>	Indigo Shire Council		



Christ Church [above] and the former Sunday School [right]

## Historical Background

The first Anglican services were conducted in a tent, as early as 1855. The present Sunday School building was constructed soon after and served as a church and Sunday School combined. The first resident clergyman, W.K. Lyon Bennett, was appointed in 1856. The foundation stone of Christ Church was laid in December 1858 by Judge Cope. The nave was completed in 1859 and first used on 2 October that year. The contractors for the building were Stevens and Balfour and the architect as diocesan architect, Leonard Terry. The total cost of the church was £3,999. The tower and chancel were added in 1864 and a timber vestry off the chancel was possibly added in the 1870s. The pipe organ, built by Melbourne organ-builder William Anderson, was installed in 1887. It is believed to have been installed in 1882 at St George's Roman Catholic Church, Carlton, before being moved to Beechworth in 1887.

## Description:

1. Christ Church is built of local granite. The buttressed nave with lancet windows dates from 1859 and the tower and polygonal chancel from 1864. The church is dominated by the square tower centrally located at the west end. Pairs of buttresses express each corner of the tower and it is crowned by a castellated parapet. The church features a number of fine stained glass windows. The original timber picket fence has been removed.
2. The pipe organ was installed in 1887. It is a single manual organ of 8 speaking stops. It retains its original action, console, pipework and case containing dummy wooden pipes.
3. The Sunday School is an early stone building with a corrugated iron gable roof. The side elevations are divided into bays by buttresses and within each bay are slightly arched casement windows with painted brick quoining. To the Church Street elevation there are a pair of double timber doors with a small widow over.

## Statement of Significance:

This is a fine example of early provincial church architecture and is an important work of the architect Leonard Terry. Its simple composition and decoration reflect the distinctive stone construction. The tower with its corner buttresses, lancet windows and constellated parapet is the focus of this composition and is a prominent local landmark. Other notable features are the stained glass windows and the chancel. The pipe organ is the only one in Beechworth and the only example of the work of William Anderson in northern Victoria. [AHC/NTA] State significance [Criteria A, E & G]