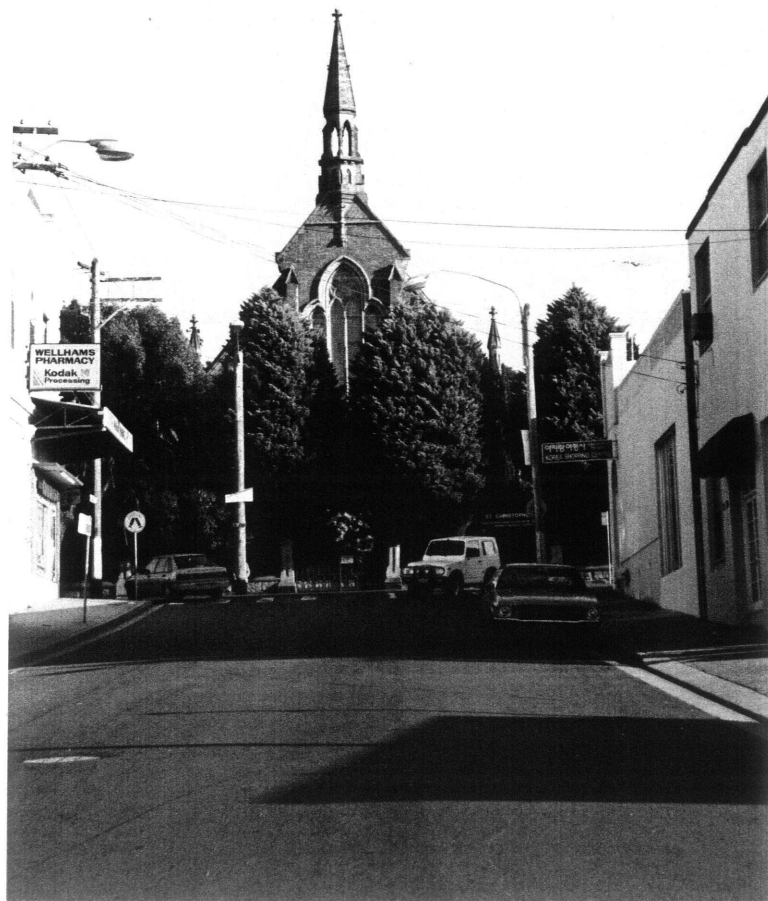


# ASHFIELD HERITAGE STUDY

1991-1992

<b>NAME</b>	St Christophorus German Catholic Church		<b>REFERENCE NO.</b>	081
<b>OTHER NAMES</b>	Former Congregational Church until 1973.		<b>REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>LOCALITY / SUBURB</b>	Croydon	<b>POSTCODE</b>	<b>ZONING</b>	5(a)
<b>STREET ADDRESS</b>	112 Edwin Street North, opposite Elizabeth Street		<b>OWNER</b>	Engel OE, Harbaumch, Meyer, Theone PR.
<b>MAP</b>	<b>REFERENCE</b>		<b>BOUNDARY / IDENTIFICATION</b>	The property boundary
<b>PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS/HISTORICAL NOTES - SEE OVER</b>				
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>SUB CATEGORY</b>			
<b>EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
Historic:	Rare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Associative	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aesthetic:	Rare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Associative	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social:	Rare	<input type="checkbox"/>	Associative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
			Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scientific:	Rare	<input type="checkbox"/>	Associative	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:	Rare	<input type="checkbox"/>	Associative	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Representative	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>				
<p>* A prominent and very fine church building which also has important townscape value on account of its strategic siting at the top of the Elizabeth Street hill.</p> <p>* It is associated with several important personages of the district including Anthony Hordern and the Rev. Walter Mathison.</p>				
<b>SITE CONDITION</b>				
Intact				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Minor Alteration				<input type="checkbox"/>
Major Alteration				<input type="checkbox"/>
- Sympathetic				<input type="checkbox"/>
- Unsympathetic				<input type="checkbox"/>
Removed (site only)				<input type="checkbox"/>



<b>PHOTOGRAPHS</b>	<b>DATE OF SURVEY</b>
BandW ROLL 91-052-11	18/5/92
COLOUR SLIDES ROLL	<b>SURVEYOR</b>
NEG NO. 34	RI/CHP
FRAME NO.	
<b>STUDY TEAM: Richard Mackay, Robert Irving, Chris Pratten, Jill Sheppard, Stephen Harris</b>	

# ASHFIELD HERITAGE STUDY

1991-1992

HERITAGE LISTINGS	PERIOD	REFERENCE NO.
<input type="checkbox"/> Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Registered	Pre - 1800 <input type="checkbox"/>	081
<input type="checkbox"/> Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Interim	1800 - 1825 <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Register of National Trust (NSW)	1825 - 1850 <input type="checkbox"/>	1884 - 85
<input type="checkbox"/> Within National Trust Conservation Area	1851 - 1875 <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>ARCHITECT / DESIGNER:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture (RAIA)	1876 - 1900 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Herbert Thompson
<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Public Works Heritage and Conservation Register	1901 - 1925 <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>BUILDER:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Permanent Conservation Order	1926 - 1950 <input type="checkbox"/>	Not known
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Interim Conservation Order	1951 - 1975 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Section 130 Order	Post - 1975 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Council Register - Nomination	<b>HISTORICAL THEMES:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> NSW Government Department Heritage Register (S170 Heritage Act)	State Themes:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Institution of Engineers (NSW) Heritage Register	Emergence of building styles.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule	Cultural and social life.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule	Building styles.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	Local Themes:	
	The boom years	

## HISTORICAL NOTES

The land upon which this church stands was made available by Mr. Anthony Hordern, who at that time, 1883, was residing in the building now known as the Presbyterian Ladies' College, Croydon. The erection of this impressive church was a bold move for the congregation of 80 people, who had been meeting in a small wooden building nearby since 1879. The church was completed and opened in November 1885. The first minister was the Rev. Walter Mathison, who was pastor from 1879-89 and 1896-1919. In 1921 the church adopted the name of Mathison Congregational Church. The church hall was erected laterally at the rear of the church, an unusual architectural arrangement.

Many of the foundation members of the church -Anthony Hordern, Edward Lloyd Jones, Josiah Mullens, Frederick Crane and Samuel Dickenson - were well known residents.

The church was sold to the German Catholics in 1972 and is now called St Christophorus. The Congregationalists formed a joint parish with the Croydon Methodists, becoming part of the Uniting Church.

## INFORMATION SOURCES:

Written: Eric Dunlop Papers, ADHS Archives. Research by N. Peek and Ena Harper.

Oral:

Graphic:

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Materials: Tuckpointed red-orange face brick walls with sandstone dressings, window tracery and embellishment. Slate roof with fish scale decorative courses and a crenellated terra cotta ridge.

Exterior: Steep pitched, parapetted gable church of essentially rectangular plan.

Interior: Not inspected.

Styles: Victorian Free Gothic.

## DESCRIPTION:

A fine brick Gothic Church, splendidly sited in Croydon Road so that its prominent stepped parapetted gable closes the long vista to the west along Elizabeth Street. The building is distinctive for its handsome red-orange brickwork, laid in Flemish Bond; for its notable main gable, surmounted by a hexagonal sandstone belfry, crowned by a tall pinnacle; this gable has a decorated apex also of sandstone; and for its fine and bold stone window tracery. At floor level there are two gabled flanking porches, with a narthex between them. The mouldings and label courses of the window arches project boldly. Brick buttresses, angled at the corners, have stone cappings, some of which have gabled motifs and pinnacles. The aisles are lit by three sided windows with trefoil tracery. The whole building has a base of axe faced ashlar. There is a fine stone and cast iron fence. A large rose window is in the rear (west) end and, also at the rear, there is a lateral annexe, with a steeply pitched roof and also having a large rose window. This is the church hall.

## MODIFICATION:

Tuck pointing has deteriorated.