Statement of Significance: St. Martin's Anglican Church Complex, 27, 27A and 27B Cromwell Road, South Yarra (June 2026)

Heritage Place:	St. Martin's Anglican Church Complex 27, 27A and 27B Cromwell Road, South Yarra	**PS ref no:**	HO28



Figures 1-4: *Examples of buildings within the St. Martin's Anglican Church Complex, including the St. Martin's Anglican Church* (top left and right), *Vicarage* (bottom left) *and Parish Hall* (bottom right) (GJM Heritage, April 2024).

What is significant?

St. Martin's Anglican Church Complex at 27, 27A and 27B Cromwell Road, South Yarra.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include:

Church

- Brick church building constructed in a Gothic Revival style
- Bluestone base to building
- Steeply-pitched, slate-clad gabled roof with shallow eaves and parapeted gable ends
- Decorative polychromatic brickwork, including elaborate diaper-work and polychromatic voussoirs, and stone dressings

- Crenulated tower with decorative brick frieze, gargoyles and groups of lancet windows which increase in number at each level
- Single lancet windows grouped in two or three, and double lancet windows with roundels
- Large tripartite chancel (east) window
- Stepped angle buttresses at corners
- Three fleches at the ridgeline of the nave
- Pairs of small ventilator gablets below the chancel ridgeline
- Freestanding grey granite memorial cross to the east of the church

Vicarage

- Two-storey rendered brick house constructed in a Gothic Revival style
- Slate-clad roof comprising three parallel gabled roof forms (two principal gables and central small gable), presenting as steep gable ends to the principal elevation
- Symmetrical principal elevation
- Timber work to large gable ends including finials, spiral bracing and cross beams
- Two-storey polygonal window bays to principal front gables with hipped slate-clad roofs, pointed arch-headed windows with decorative label moulds and moulded sills at the upper-level
- Shallow-pitched verandah roof, with decorative ironwork, fitted around polygonal bays
- Central entrance between flanking polygonal bays at ground level
- Three tall, rendered chimneys with corniced capping
- Single-storey rear wing across the rear elevation

Parish Hall

- Single-storey cement-rendered brick building comprising two rectangular forms
- Large tile-clad gabled-roof building, orientated north-south, at rear with parapeted gable ends and buttresses that divide the side elevations into regular window bays
- Gabled-roof form positioned across the north (principal) elevation
- Shallow central pediment with name plate ‘Parish Hall’, quoined pilasters and remnants of a (demolished) central classically-detailed porch to principal (north) elevation
- Two cement rendered brick gate piers with a pronounced entasis (curved profile) at Cromwell Road boundary and concrete path leading to the Parish Hall.

Later alterations to the rear of the Vicarage and the Parish Hall do not contribute to the significance of the place.

How is it significant?

St. Martin’s Anglican Church Complex at 27, 27A and 27B Cromwell Road, South Yarra of local historical, representative (architectural), aesthetic and social significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

St. Martin’s Anglican Church Complex, South Yarra has strong associations with the development of South Yarra after the opening of the Oakleigh railway line in 1879 and establishment of the Hawksburn Railway Station. Subsequent rapid residential subdivision and the associated growth in population resulted in the provision of churches, and other community buildings, to service the local community. Built in 1883-1886, St Martin’s Anglican Church remains highly intact to clearly demonstrate the continuous provision of pastoral care to the South Yarra community from the late nineteenth century, into the twenty-first century (Criterion A).

St. Martin’s Anglican Church Complex, South Yarra is a fine and highly intact representative example of a late nineteenth century and early twentieth century church complex, comprising a Gothic Revival church and vicarage, and a relatively austere 1920s hall complex. The church displays typical characteristics of the Gothic Revival style, including steeply-pitched slate-clad roofs, brick construction

with decorative polychromatic brickwork and stone dressings, crenulated tower, pointed arch-headed windows including single lancet windows and large tripartite chancel window, stepped angled buttresses at corners and fleches at the ridgeline of the nave. The vicarage displays similar characteristics of the Gothic Revival style, including steeply-pitched slate-clad roofs and pointed arch-headed windows set in projecting two-storey polygonal window bays (Criterion D).

St. Martin's Anglican Church and Vicarage, South Yarra are assured and well-executed examples of the Gothic Revival style, with both understood to have been designed by architect Edmund G Ovey. The two buildings, with their steeply-pitched gabled roofs and pointed arch-headed windows, present as a cohesive and refined pair of church buildings from the late nineteenth century (Criterion E).

St. Martin's Anglican Church and Vicarage, South Yarra is of social significance for its long and continuing use as a community facility in the City of Stonnington. Established in 1883, St Martin's Anglican Church and Vicarage, South Yarra continues to serve the local South Yarra community as a religious institution for the pastoral care of its parishioners (Criterion G).

Primary source

South Yarra Heritage Review (GJM Heritage, March 2025).

Complex map



Figure 5: *St. Martin's Anglican Church complex map* (GJM Heritage).