

A brief history of

St. George's



Travelling through time

Parkville
North Melbourne
Travancore

Early History

After European settlement, a sheep station called *Flemington* was formed in 1847, named after the owner's father-in-law's estate in Scotland. The Flemington Estate was sold 1849 due to insolvency, and the new owner, Hugh Glass, a successful business man, built a grand two-storey house on a hill overlooking Melbourne, and named it *Flemington House*. Flemington House had grounds of ninety-five acres, and it's owner was once regarded as the wealthiest man in Victoria. In the late 1860s widespread drought brought on an economic depression, and the agricultural part of the estate was seized by creditors, but the house and surrounding acres were retained by the family.

The rather smaller estate had then various owners over the years, and in 1907 Henry Madden purchased the property. He was a breeder of horses, and supplied remounts to the Indian Army. He renamed the house *Travancore*, after a princely state in southern India.

The Travancore Estate was subdivided in 1918, and Baroda, Mangalore, Lucknow and Cashmere streets were created. Later land sales ended in 1925. The last remaining land and the old mansion were sold to the Victorian Government in June 1926 for use as a school. The mansion by then was falling into disrepair, and was demolished in stages over 1939 to 1942.

Flemington Primary School was built on the site of the mansion. The original gates of the mansion can be seen today as the front gates to the school on Mount Alexander Rd.

St. George's, at Parkville

St. Mary's, North Melbourne was the nearest Anglican congregation, but was considered too far away for most of the families in this area, particularly in the matter of Sunday School attendance, so a group of Anglicans petitioned the Bishop of Melbourne for a new parish, and on 2nd April 1876 a wooden church was opened in Manningham Street, Parkville, by Dean McCartney and named *The Anglican Church of St. George, Flemington*. The wooden hall which housed the new church had previously been used as a Sunday School, a day school ('The Church of England School, Flemington'), and where occasional church services were held.

After the hall was enlarged twice due to the growing congregation, the wooden church was replaced in 1916 by a brick building, already on the site, which was previously used as the Sunday School and church hall. The old wooden church was sold and in 1926 became St. George's West Bentleigh.

