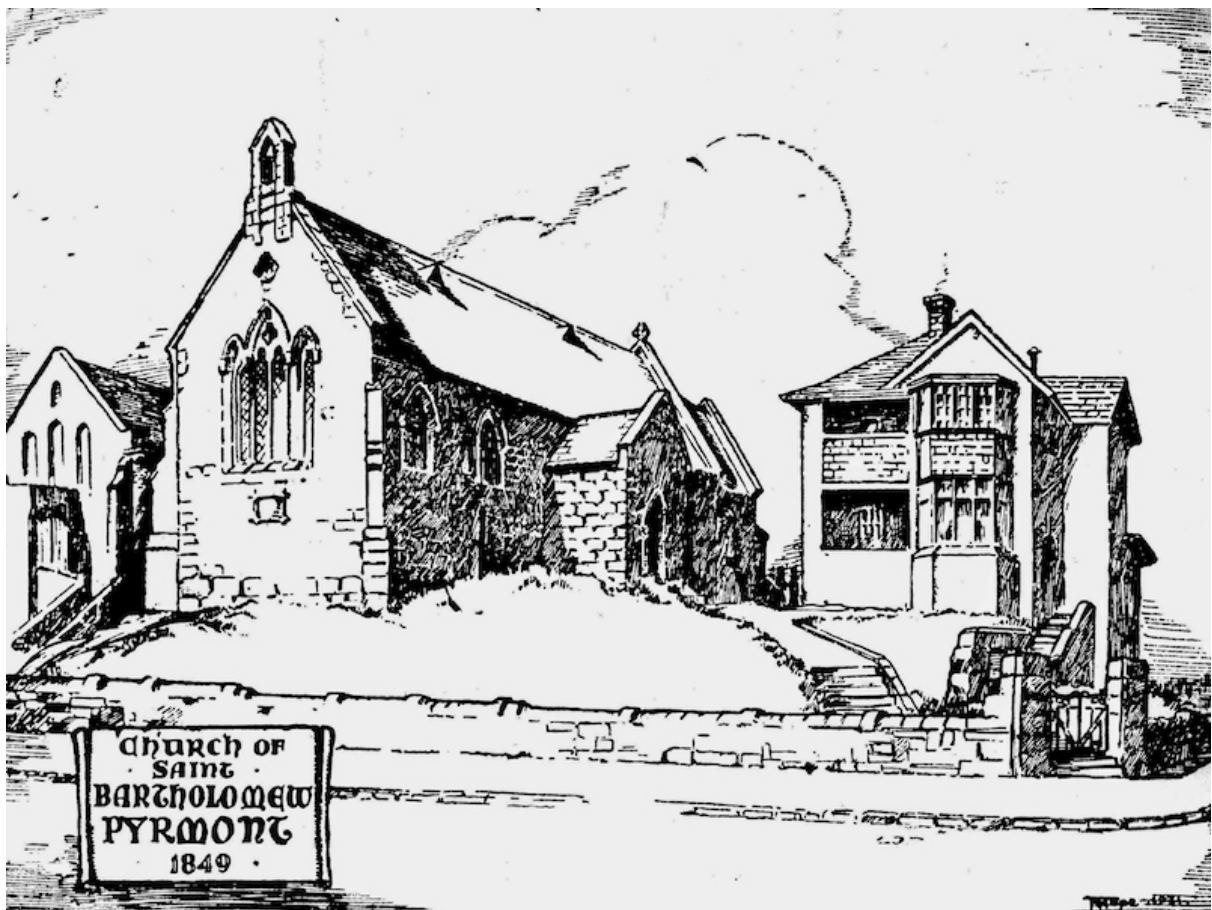


St Bartholomew's Anglican Church in Pyrmont

A brief history by Libby Hindmarsh

As you stand at the top of James Watkinson Reserve and look out over the great view of the harbour, you are seeing Sydney from the place where St Bartholomew's church once stood.

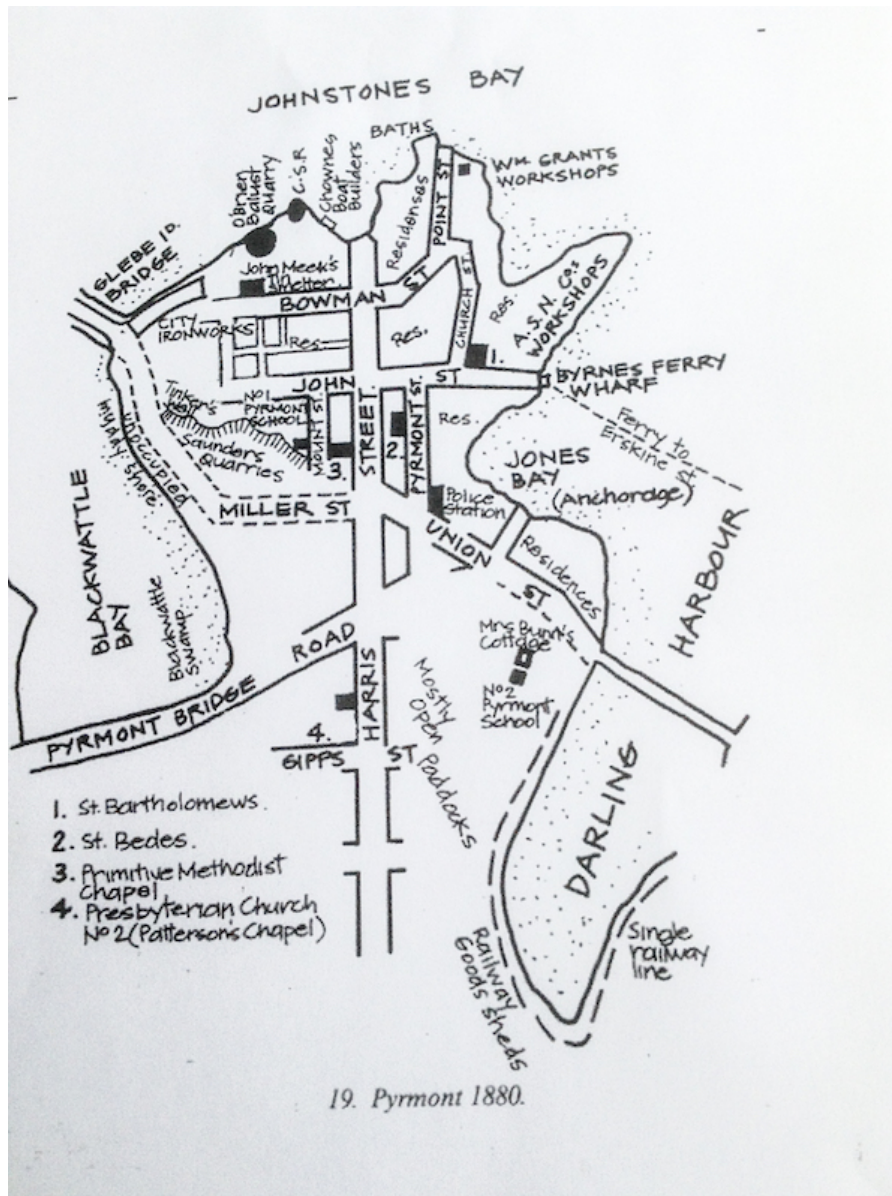
From the laying of the foundation stone on 24th August 1849 to the time the church was demolished in May 1970, St Bartholomew's church, the Rectory and the school hall stood looking down on the arriving ships.



The land for the church was given by Edward Macarthur of London to The Lord Bishop of Sydney in an unregistered deed dated the thirteenth day of August 1849.



If you were attending St Bartholomew's in the 1850s there was a very active congregation and the first Rector was Rev Thomas Druitt.



You would find the church on the corner of Church Street and John Street which is a different configuration to the current roads in Pymont.

The rectory was demolished in 1916 and the land sold to the City Council. 'Ways Terrace' was built on the site and is still occupied today with its great views over the harbour. This money was used to build a new rectory and hall.



St Bartholomew Church celebrating 'Harvest Festival' in a suburb which had become an industrial hub.

The parish continued to flourish under fifteen rectors but with the decreasing population of Pyrmont, the congregation also diminished. In 1955 Rev Bernard Gook was invited to come to Australia with his family and became the last Rector of St Bartholomew's Church. He worked part time as the Rector and had other responsibilities in the Department of Evangelism in the Sydney Anglican Diocese. He later became the Rector of St Barnabas Broadway and St Bartholomew's became part of that parish. Services were taken by the curates from Broadway.



Rev Bernard Gook

When the church was sold in 1970 the money was used to buy 'The Terraces' in Glebe Point Road, Glebe which were administered by St Barnabas Broadway to provide student accommodation. This facility continues to this day and houses students who come mainly from the country at a very reasonable rent.

The church was sold and was used by a company producing stained glass until it was demolished. The site is now the park and residential apartments.



All that is left of the site is the plaque inserted into the Pymont sandstone

References:

Michael R. Matthews: Pymont and Ultimo. A History. 1982

Personal correspondence with Jackie France (nee Gook)

St Barnabas Sydney Lease Ordinance, 1970