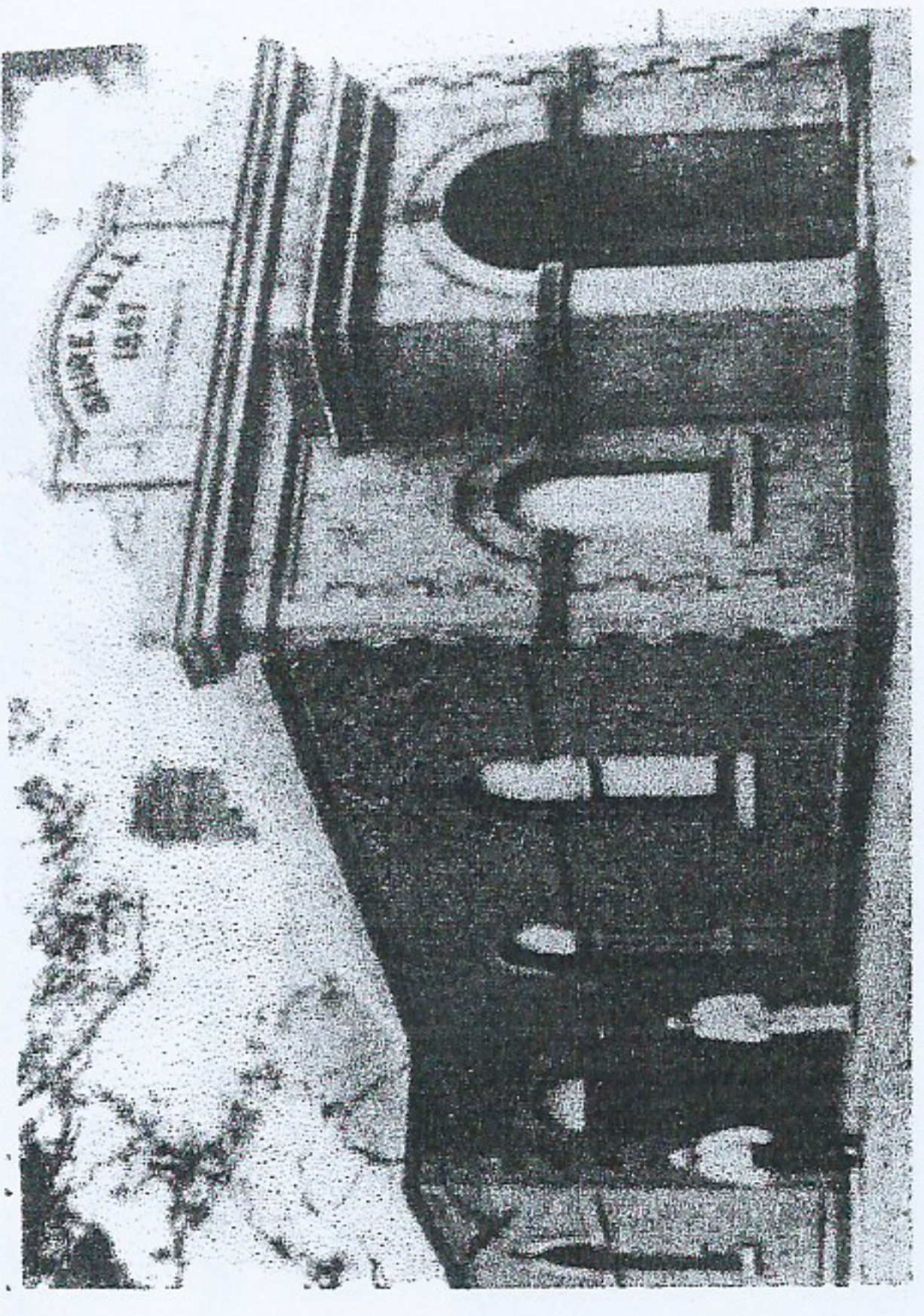
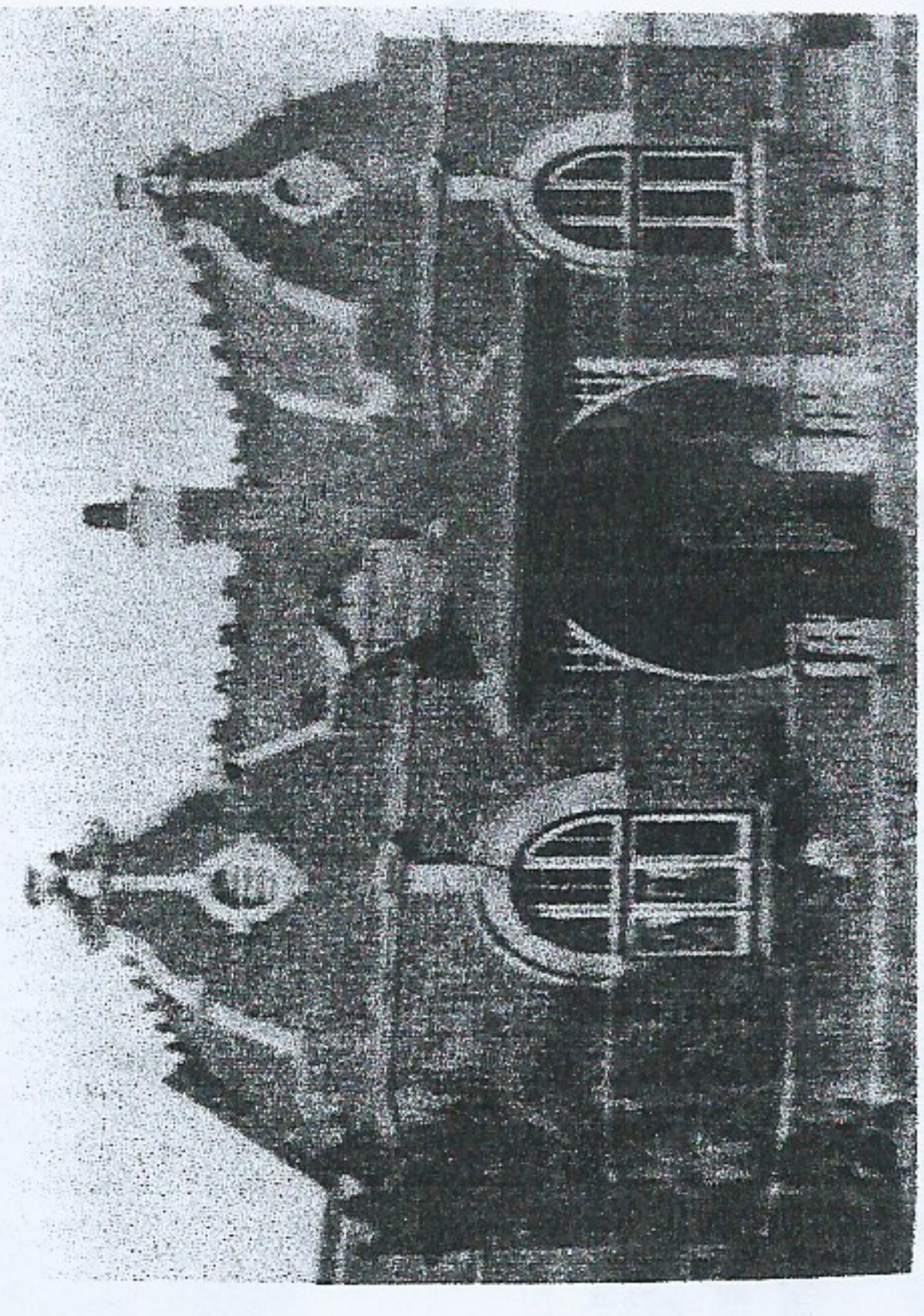


# BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CITY OF MOORABBIN

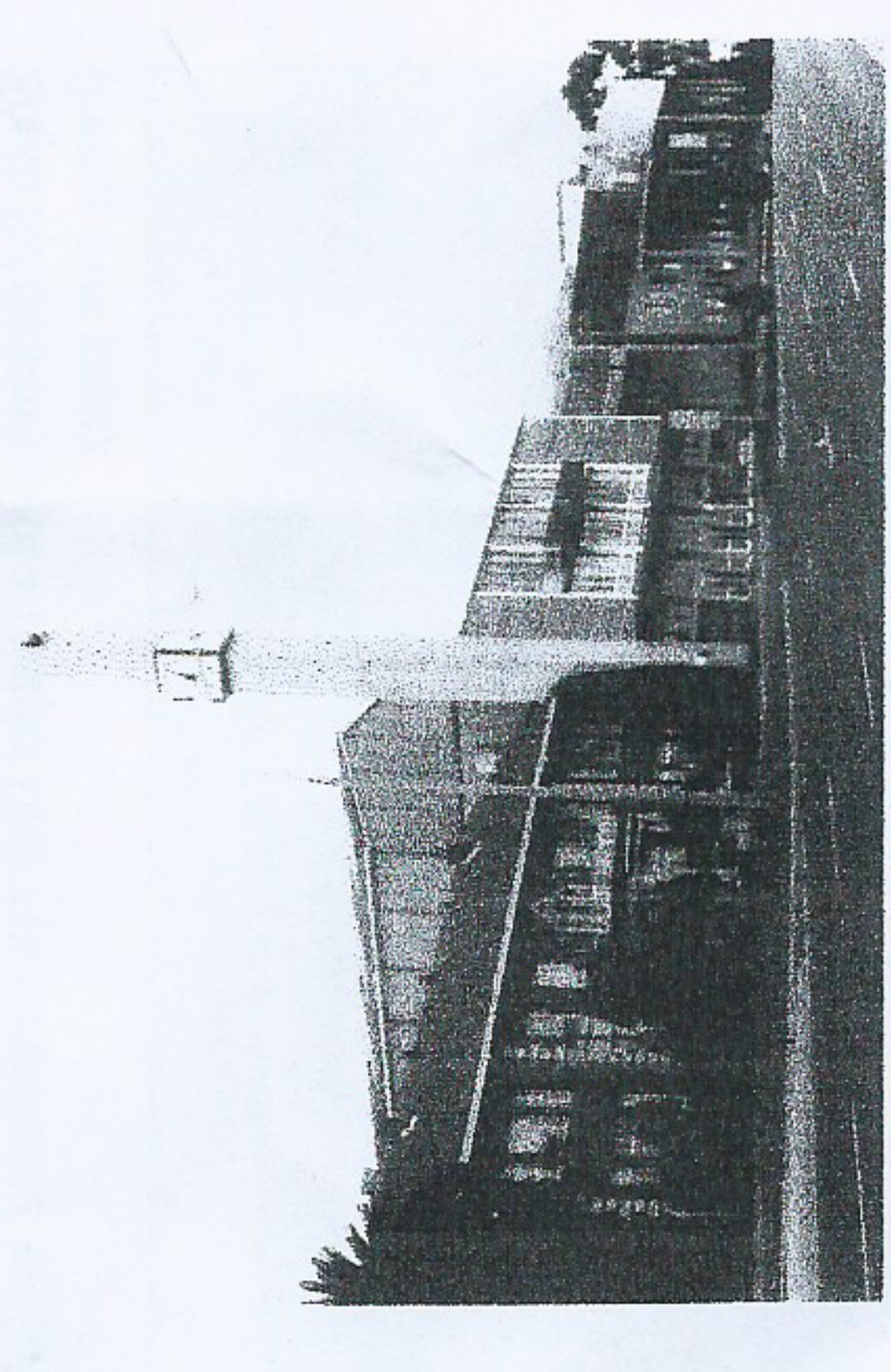
Images: City of Moorabbin Historical Society Collection



First Moorabbin Shire Hall 1867



Moorabbin Shire Hall with extensions 1907



Moorabbin City Hall & Municipal Offices ca1990  
Photographer: Dennis Maynard

Throughout the Moorabbin area from the 1850s, enterprising settlers — from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, China, Germany and elsewhere — would establish orchards and vineyards, seedling nurseries and market gardens as well as poultry and dairy farms plus related businesses. And, for more than a century the fertile soil of Moorabbin would provide metropolitan Melbourne with much of its fruit and vegetables.

## SHIRE OF MOORABBIN 1871-1934

When Moorabbin was created a shire in 1871 the hall constructed for the Road District Board in 1867 became the Shire Hall until a new shire hall was built around the original in 1907. The shire's boundaries included the areas now known as Moorabbin, Highett, Cheltenham, Sandringham, Mentone and Mordialloc, McKinnon and part of Ormond.

Small sections of Moorabbin were annexed by Brighton in April 1912 and 1917. Sandringham went its separate way to form a new borough in 1917. Mentone and Mordialloc would secede from Moorabbin in 1920.

In 1931, a Georgian style municipal office was constructed next to the 1907 Moorabbin Shire Hall (front image).

## CITY OF MOORABBIN 1934-1994

Due to the increase in population as well as new industries and land development, especially in the Bentleigh and Cheltenham areas, Moorabbin was proclaimed a city on 10 October 1934, and L.A Sheppard elected its first Mayor. At the time, Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Bentleigh West, Cheltenham, Heatherton, Highett, McKinnon, Moorabbin and Ormond constituted the city.

A new Moorabbin City Hall with clock tower, designed by Bates, Smart and McCutcheon and built by CD Mason, was officially opened in 1963. Additions to the 1931 building were made in 1970 and, as more space became necessary, a new building was constructed in 1986 which included meeting rooms and a new council chambers (far right of image on left).

Eight years later in 1994 the Victorian government passed laws to reduce the number of local councils. As a consequence, the City of Moorabbin was divided up to be included in the new cities of Bayside, Glen Eira and Kingston. Today, a small area in the City of Kingston still retains the name Moorabbin as a reminder of earlier days.

# CITY OF MOORABBIN 1934-1994

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The following is considered to be how the districts of the City of Moorabbin obtained their names.



• **Bentleigh:** originally called Brighton East as it was part of Henry Dendy's Estate surveyed in 1841. It was renamed Bentleigh ca1906 in tribute to Sir Thomas Bent, 1838-1909, (left) Cnclr for Moorabbin and Brighton; MLA for Brighton; Commissioner of Works; Minister for Railways\*, and 22nd Premier of Victoria, 1904-1909.

\*Patterson Railway Station which opened in 1961 was probably named after Hon James Patterson, 17th Premier of Victoria and Minister for Railways, 1893-1894.

• **Cheltenham:** adopted from the "Cheltenham Inn" built by early settler Charles Whorral in 1853. It seems he named it after his hometown Cheltenham in England

• **Heatherton:** colonists applied the name to the area as the local vegetation reminded them of Scottish heather.

• **Highett:** named after banker, businessman, pastoralist, land developer and politician William Highett who was born in Weymouth in Dorset. He purchased land from the struggling Were-Dendy Estate in the 1850s and by the 1870s owned approx 6117 acres (2475ha) in the area.

• **McKinnon:** called after McKinnon's Rd named after an early settler who bought land in the vicinity [further information welcome].

• **Moorabbin:** the name given by the Martin Brothers to their cattlerun, previously on the NW of Dendy's 1841 "Special (Brighton) Survey".

• **Ormond:** formerly known as North Brighton and renamed ca1897 in tribute to Scottish born Francis Ormond, 1827-1889, MLC and philanthropist (right). He was a contributing founder of RMIT (Working Men's College); the Gordon Technical College, and funded a chair of music at Melbourne University.

