

GRAPEVINE CUTTINGS (September 2002)

By Rob Upson

LANGLEY HALL & BISHOPSCOURT

Situated at 484 Napier Street, White Hills, the stately home now called *Langley Hall*, was built in 1903 for the first Anglican Bishop of Bendigo, Henry Archdall Langley. The architects W.C.Vahland and John Beebe designed this Bishop's Palace or Bishops court. Bishop Langley managed the diocese from this house until his death in 1906. His brother, John Langley was then appointed Bishop and also lived there. In 1920, the third Bishop (Baker) established the residence at Bishops court, 40 Forest Street.

Paul Howard MacGillivray was the resident surgeon at the Bendigo Hospital from 1862. When he decided to set up private practice he built a large house at 40 Forest Street in 1876, designed by the architect J.M.Brady. The consulting rooms were on the ground floor with an entrance from Rowan Street. The private entrance was from Forest Street. MacGillivray was also a zoologist of some repute and founded the Bendigo Science Society, bringing speakers from Melbourne to lecture at the School of Mines on scientific subjects. MacGillivray Hall at the now Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE is named in his memory.

The Anglican Church acquired this property in Forest St. and it became Bishops court in 1920. It remained the Bishop's residence until 1984 when a new residence was constructed in Maxwell Crescent. The Forest Street Bishops court is now a Bed and Breakfast establishment.

Back to Langley Hall. When the Bishop vacated the residence it became Langley Hall Theological College for the training of diocesan clergy. It then had a series of uses over the ensuing years including a Red Cross Hostel for unmarried mothers. From 1932 to 1978 the Mission of St. James and St. John conducted the St. Luke's Children's Home for orphans on the premises. It then had uses as a restaurant, a reception centre and an antique business.

Next to Langley Hall is St. Luke's Anglican Church, the earliest known church to be designed by Vahland and Getzschmann in 1863. The original design had a 26-metre tower to be built when funds became available – they never did.

Reference: Bendigo Historic Buildings by Mike Butcher
