

# CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL RUINS

Update: 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2002

The ruins of the original Christ Church are highly valued by a wide range of territory residents for their religious, spiritual and social associations. The structure is a reminder of the provision of worship for the Anglican community in early Darwin.

During the 1880s this site, upon which the Christ Church Cathedral now stands, was occupied by Chinese bark and iron huts and other Chinese stores which faced Cavenagh St.

The Christ Church Cathedral Ruins comprise the remnants of a small stone rectangular church, built of local Porcellanite by the Anglican Church.

Prior to the construction of the church the Anglican congregation had used the Court House as its place of worship.

The foundation stone was laid on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 1902, to the delight of the parishioners.

The church was completed in 3 months and early photos show its simple rectangular form and steep gabled roof. It was originally intended as a Lady Chapel for a planned larger cathedral, but this project never eventuated.



*Christ Church c.1910*  
Photo: Roderick Collection, Northern Territory Library

Early in 1942 the Christ Church became a Garrison Church. In February of that year, the church and the adjacent rectory, built in 1917, were damaged by Japanese bombing raids.

The Royal Australian Army and Navy undertook the repairs and restoration work on both the church and rectory.

This included the addition of a Memorial porch, fence and gate which were dedicated in a ceremony in June 1944 "As a tribute to the memory of those members of all Services who died whilst on active service in the Northern Territory during the Second World War."

As a result of Cyclone Tracy in 1974, the parish hall and clergy residences were completely destroyed, leaving only a section of the west wall and porch of the church, and the entrance gateway.



*Christ Church Cathedral 2002*

In 1976, a new concrete and glass cathedral was constructed behind the stone ruins.

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