

Heritage Citation



St Michael & All Angels Hall

Key details

Also known as	St. Michael's & All Angels Church and Hall
Addresses	At 20 Balfour Street, New Farm, Queensland 4005
Type of place	Church, School, Hall
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Carpenter Gothic
Lot plan	L3_RP8623
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — September 2008

Construction

Roof: Corrugated iron;
Walls: Timber

People/associations

John Hingeston Buckeridge (Architect)

Criterion for listing

(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social; (H) Historical association

St Michael and All Angels Church & Hall is a fine example of a late nineteenth century timber church of utilitarian, but innovative, design by Diocesan architect J.H. Buckeridge. It was designed for multiple uses; as a church, Sunday school and hall, and was a part of the Anglican Parish at New Farm for over 100 years.

History

By the late nineteenth century New Farm had been transformed from its use as farmland in the convict era to an area of extensive suburban development. A number of churches had been built in the area from the 1870s, but New Farm's Church of England population remained part of the Fortitude Valley parish until 1890. That year, Bishop Webber asked Rev Manley Power of Christ Church, Milton to help establish a local congregation, and approved the purchase of an allotment on Brunswick Street of the Ravenswood Estate.

The newly formed parish congregation decided to proceed immediately with the construction of a building to serve as church, school and hall. This building, designed by Diocesan Architect J H Buckeridge, was destroyed by fire soon after completion in November 1890. The insurance payment for this church made its immediate replacement with another similar building possible. The contractor was Joseph Monahan and the building cost £860. This second building, dedicated by Bishop Webber on 19 March 1891, is the present 'Friendship House', which has been relocated onto a brick base.

This hardwood timber building was designed by John Hingeston Buckeridge to serve as a church, school and hall. The construction of timber churches, sometimes for multiple uses, was a common practice in the late nineteenth century as new parishes were established and a local economic downturn strained parish finances. They were mostly constructed as temporary buildings in the expectation that the parish could afford a more suitable stone church in the not too distant future. Often these timber churches were small, modest structures.

There are a number of timber churches designed by Buckeridge in Brisbane that display his innovative design skills. Bishop Webber appointed Buckeridge as Diocesan Architect in 1887. Webber was keenly interested in good architecture as attested by his commissioning of St John's Cathedral. This interest was carried to parish level as Buckeridge's designs were used to construct churches at Milton (Christ Church), Indooroopilly (St Andrew's) and Bulimba (St John's) as well as in Toowoomba, Bundaberg, Thursday Island and other regional areas.

At St Michael and All Angels, Buckeridge's use of weatherboard externally and VJ lining internally was unusual, as was the inclusion of verandahs, ridge ventilators, eaves and casement windows. The latter indicate an innovative consideration of climate, and in conjunction with the restrained external decorative detailing, provide evidence of the planned future use of the building as a school hall.

St Michael and All Angels continued to be used as a church after a parish hall was built in 1903. A rectory was erected and dedicated on 28 December 1910. While a permanent church of stone, brick or masonry was planned in 1921, the scheme did not proceed and St Michael's and All Angels continued to be the focal point of Anglican worship in New Farm.

In late 1922 two stained glass windows were added to the timber church. In 1948, the Balfour Street property was purchased for £1,200. An old house on this site was sold and removed to raise capital and make room for the 1891 building. In July 1954, the original 75 tonne church was moved 150 feet to the new site using a ramp. The Church Chronicle reported that 500 people attended the dedication of the hall and vestry by Bishop H.H. Dixon M.A. on 21 November 1954.

The old church was modified substantially at a cost of £7,947. Architect A.W. Bretnall designed the alterations and Mr Barclay was the building contractor. The alterations included the addition of timber stairs to the vestry on the northern side, timber stairs to the north verandah, an enlargement of the verandah to the south and concrete steps linking the first and ground floors on the south. Brick walls were constructed below the 1891 church to provide a ground floor hall with an attached kitchen. The upper level served as the church until the new masonry church was dedicated on the Brunswick Street site on 22 March 1959.

Further modifications were carried out in the late 1980s when the first floor was subdivided and a mezzanine level installed under the supervision of R. Spencer and Associates. The hall was re-named "Friendship House", as from 1986-2001, the upper floors were leased to the Queensland Mental Health Association. The ground floor was still used for parish activities. In 2001 the Anglican church sold the Balfour Street property to a private owner.

Description

St Michaels and All Angels Hall is a two-storeyed building consisting of a Gothic-influenced timber hall, built in 1891, which has been raised and filled in underneath with a brick and concrete structure built in 1954. It has a steeply-pitched corrugated iron roof, with gables to each of the four elevations, and is clad in weatherboard. The hall has a simple T-shaped plan, with a broad nave which is flanked by verandahs to the north-western end, and has a faceted projecting bay on the street elevation. Refurbishments to the interior have included offices and a mezzanine over the former sanctuary to the south-eastern end, while the remaining areas of the nave have been partitioned for meeting areas.

The hall has an exposed roof structure, comprising timber scissor trusses with steel tie rods. The ceiling is timber-boarded, and has diagonal boards to the end bays. The south-eastern end of the hall is flanked by pointed arch timber arcading, which has square timber columns with square capitals. The bay to the north-west has a faceted timber boarded ceiling, and is framed with a fine timber surround which meets a dado rail. The south-eastern wall has a three-light pointed arch window set in broad carved timber surrounds, surmounted by a single pointed

arch window.

Externally, the building is restrained in its decorative detailing. It has pointed arch doorways, with boarded and framed double doors leading onto the verandahs from the nave. The verandahs have raked timber boarded ceilings and exposed rafters, landing on square timber columns with square capitals. Basket arched timber trim runs between the columns. The windows have timber trefoil motifs, and are sheltered to the north-east with corrugated iron awnings on shaped timber brackets. The north-eastern gable has a leaf-shaped ventilation panel.

The external appearance of the building has been altered by the raising and enclosing at ground level, however the form and much of the fabric remain intact including key elements such as the trusses, timber arcading and projecting bay.

The new brick hall is 71 feet long, 36 feet wide and has seven large steel joists supporting the timber church above. These joists are set in brick piers in the walls of the hall. The floor of the hall is concrete, and has been covered in parquetry in a herring-bone pattern with a border of red and white wood blocks.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

Historical

CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as a church constructed in the late nineteenth century during New Farm's early development as a residential area.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as an example of the innovative designs of architect J.H. Buckeridge when he was architect for the Anglican Diocese of Brisbane.

Social

CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

as a central part of the St Michael's and All Angels Parish for more than a century and with a strong connection to the Anglican community of New Farm.

Historical association

CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

as a timber church designed by Diocesan Architect J.H. Buckeridge.

References

1. Allom-Lovell Marquis-Kyle Christ Church Milton: A Conservation Study, A Report for the Anglican Parish of Christ Church Milton, 1991
2. Andresen, Brit. "Queensland Timber Churches: A Study of the Anglican Churches of the Diocese of Brisbane", *National Trust Journal*, February 1991
3. Andresen, Brit. *Church Register. An Inventory of Parish Churches within the Diocese of Brisbane 1847-1903*. Department of Architecture, University of Queensland 1998
4. Brisbane City Council Building Card Records
5. Brisbane City Council Minutes, 4 February 1958
6. Brisbane City Council, Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Detail Plan No: 161, 1937
7. *The Church Chronicle*, November 1909, p.354; December 1909, p.378; February 1910, p.426; November 1957, p.332; April 1959, p.117
8. *Courier Mail*, 2 June 1954
9. Department of Natural Resources. Queensland Certificates of Title
10. Environmental Protection Authority File No: 600260
11. National Trust of Queensland citation no. 1/542
12. St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church, Order of Service to Commemorate the Centenary of the

Church Building, 1991

13. Donald Watson and Judith McKay, *Queensland Architects of the Nineteenth Century*, South Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994

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Note: This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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