

Heritage Citation



St Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church

Key details

Also known as	St. Thomas Aquinas, Roman Catholic Church
Addresses	At 87 Central Avenue, St Lucia, Queensland 4067
Type of place	Church
Period	Postwar 1945-1960
Style	Ecclesiastical
Lot plan	L366_RP23343; L364_RP23343; L365_RP23343; L367_RP23343; L371_RP23343; L340_RP23343; L339_RP23343; L2_RP55942; L370_RP23343 ; L369_RP23343; L368_RP23343; L341_RP23343

Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — October 2000
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Construction	Roof: Tile; Walls: Face brick
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Criterion for listing	(E) Aesthetic; (G) Social
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St Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church was completed in 1960. It has a lengthy connection with several generations of St Lucia residents who have taken religious instruction and worshipped at the church. The Church is also aesthetically significant.

Description

This is a good example of a progressive 1950s church (foundation stone dated 1960). The church as expressed externally, consists of a greatly simplified traditional plan - east-west nave with a slender roof spire over the altar and a spectacular western front. The western front boasts twin entrances with stone panels over, a central window surmounted by a cross and sculptural figure, all within a glazed tile surround. A boldly modelled, fortress-like bell tower is linked to the western front with a narrow section of glazed curtain walling.

The arcaded side elevation to the street is understated but well considered and finely detailed. Alice Hampson in her unpublished thesis on 50s architecture (U of Q, 1987) describes the following innovations of this period: *The '50s churches were designed to embrace the congregation into a communal act of worship and tried to diminish the segregation of priest and public. The emphasis on ornate decoration was abandoned; instead the '50s church relied on material finish and construction as its decoration.*

The associated church residence appears to have been designed at the same time as the church, probably by the same architect, and is an interesting if conservative design for this period. This design is of particular note when considered in conjunction with the church.

This church is one of two prominent 1950s-60s churches on Central Avenue. These churches give Central Avenue a distinctive character.

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:

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as it is a large brick church with a striking entrance and a prominent fortress-like bell tower which together make a strong visual impact on Central Avenue.

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 it has a lengthy connection with several generations of St Lucia residents who have taken religious instruction and worshiped at the church since its completion in 1960.

References

1. Hampson, Alice. *The Fifties in Queensland: Why Not! Why?.* B of Arch. thesis, Dept of Architecture, U of Q, 1987
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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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