

Heritage Citation



Catholic Apostolic Church (former)

Key details

Also known as	St. Thomas' Church of England, Callan House
Addresses	At 16 Manning Street, South Brisbane, Queensland 4101
Type of place	Church
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Gothic
Lot plan	L18_B3137
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — October 1996

Construction

Roof: Terracotta tile;
Walls: Face brick

Criterion for listing

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

This small brick church building was constructed for the Catholic Apostolic Church circa 1920 after the first church on the site, constructed circa 1888, was destroyed by fire in the late 1910s. In 1962, the building was purchased by the Anglican Church and renamed St Thomas' Church of England. It remained an Anglican church until being sold in 1984 and has since been converted for commercial use.

History

The Catholic Apostolic Church was formed in England in the 1830s. A major influence on this pentecostal breakaway movement was Edward Irving, a Scot originally ordained in the Church of Scotland but later regarded as doctrinally suspect. Irving emphasised the offices of apostle, prophet and evangelist in the church and the restoration of gifts of the Holy Spirit, including "speaking in tongues", as signs of the imminent second coming of Christ. A schism in the church occurred in Germany in 1863 leading to the formation of the New Apostolic Church. Both groups were present in Australia during the 1880s.

This site was one of several blocks of land sold in South Brisbane under the Victoria Bridge Land Sales Act of 1879 which allowed the Brisbane Municipal Council to recover revenue previously foregone on other government property. It was purchased as allotment 18 of Section 42 of the City by Reginald H. Hurd in April 1885. In November of that year, the thirty six perch block was sold to Peter MacPherson and William Henry Miskin, a prominent Brisbane businessman. The land changed hands again in January 1886, when it was purchased by George Clark, who in 1888, mortgaged the land for £70, possibly in connection with the construction of the church.

South Brisbane at this time was experiencing a building boom and developing rapidly as a thriving industrial, commercial and residential area which rivalled the northern side of the river. In 1888, South Brisbane was proclaimed as a Borough, and in the spirit of optimism of the period, there was a drive to build churches and other community buildings. The Catholic Apostolic Church in Manning Street was situated close to the busy thoroughfare and commercial area of Melbourne Street.

The original Catholic Apostolic Church to be built on this site first appears in Post Office Directories in 1888. According to an elderly former member of the church, this building was destroyed by a fire which commenced at a nearby engineering works in the late 1910s. It is believed that the present church building, built to replace the former church, was never consecrated as the last of the twelve apostles appointed in the church died before its construction. The last minister of the church, Reverend J.T. Young died in 1932, after serving as trustee and minister from the early 1890s. The life of the church continued under the guidance of its deacons, the last of whom died in 1957. In 1962, the site was purchased by the Synod of the Anglican Church who renamed the church St Thomas' Church of England. This church replaced another church of the same name which had been located in Grey Street.

In 1980, the property was sold by the Anglican Church. Since 1984 it has been used as professional offices and

a fashion warehouse. This building remains as evidence of the changing religious and spiritual life of the South Brisbane area over a period of several decades.

Description

This well proportioned small brick and tile church shows arts and crafts influence integrated with gothic features in an urbane if somewhat staid composition which seems to suit its current use as offices almost as comfortably as it would have served its religious use.

It has a traditional plan with entry vestibule to the street, nave, side transepts and a sanctuary at the rear. A pair of gothic lancet windows are situated in the small gable fronted entry vestibule. These are wrapped in rendered bands at sill and head heights as are the flanking single windows to the main front. In the main gable a lead light rose window with blue brick surround is featured, set between capped brick piers. Both front walls, are trimmed top and bottom with rendered bands, capped at the gable apex with a cross and anchored at the eaves with corbelled blocks. A flat-roofed extension to the gabled entry vestibule is capped with sprung-arch decorated cornice and contains a small lancet window with an overscaled rendered head in the wall to the street. The entrance gate is to the side of this structure.

The side walls of the church are divided into bays with stepping, capped engaged piers as buttresses, each bay contains pairs of lancet windows. The roof eaves, with deep fascia, oversails these buttresses giving an almost domestic quality to the building's side elevations. The transepts are of different heights, emerging from the main roof at close to eaves height. These wings are lit with square-topped casement windows and feature simplified detailing.

Alterations imposed by its use as offices include free-form garden beds and brick paving to the front yard, some of which functions as car parking space. The interior of the building was not inspected. The building's current name "Callan House" is spelt out in gold lettering on a plaque in the gable of the entry vestibule. The exterior of the building seems to be well maintained and intact.

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 evidence of the presence of the Catholic Apostolic Church in Brisbane from the late 1880s.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance as a fine example of a small 1920s brick church.

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 the former place of worship of a minority religious group, the Catholic Apostolics; and, as a place of worship for the South Brisbane community for more than 60 years.

References

1. Gillman, I. 1988, *Many Faiths One Nation: A Guide to the Major Faiths and Denominations in Australia*, Collins, Sydney
2. Queensland Post Office Directories
3. Queensland Land Office Records

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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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