

Heritage Citation



Christ Church, Church Hall & Rectory

Key details

Also known as	Christ Church Yeronga
Addresses	At 12 Cork Street, Yeronga, Queensland 4104
Type of place	Church, Residence (singular), Monument / memorial, Hall
Period	Interwar 1919-1939, Postwar 1945-1960
Style	Gothic, Queenslander
Lot plan	L7_RP37752; L11_RP37752; L12_RP37752; L10_RP37752; L8_RP37752; L9_RP37752
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — January 2010

People/associations Alan Hunter Young - Church (Architect);
Mr Stringer - Church (Builder)

Criterion for listing (A) Historical; (D) Representative; (G) Social

The construction of this Interwar Gothic church in 1923 continued a tradition of Anglican worship in Yeronga that dates back to the nineteenth century, with the first Anglican services being held in 1889. A rectory (1920s) and church hall (1953) were later built on neighboring blocks, forming an Anglican precinct that has continued to provide a place of worship for Yeronga's Anglican community into the twenty-first century. The church also stands as a memorial to local residents who died in World War I.

History

The first Anglican services in Yeronga were held in the cottage of Mrs Dickie in 1889. The congregation then sought to have regular services and in May 1891 a committee was formed and wrote to Rev I.S. Hassall of the Sherwood parish seeking his attendance. Services continued to be held in Mrs Dickie's cottage that was rented for £2/10 per quarter. Lay readers held the Sunday services and Rev Hassall provided Holy Communion monthly.

In 1898 the congregation made use of a disused Wesleyan Church on Park Road and obtained the services of a Church Mission with Mr Kitchen as Resident Stipendiary Lay Reader for 27 shillings per week. Lay readers also conducted services and Rev Hassall continued to provide Holy Communion. Around 1900 Mr Kitchen was replaced by Mr Taylor and Rev Tathan became the rector of Sherwood. The South Brisbane Methodist Church offered the Park Road church and land to the Yeronga Anglicans for £200 but the congregation offered only £120 as the church needed repairs and had white ants. The offer was not accepted and the congregation continued to rent the church for £2 per month until August 1900 when the church was sold for removal.

There was a period of some dispute over whether the congregation and its offertories were part of Sherwood parish or the Church Mission. Mr Taylor, the Resident Stipendiary Lay Reader resigned and the Sunday School, despite having 90 pupils and ably run by Misses Grimes, was closed. Services were held on the veranda of 'Yeronglea', owned by Charles Lahey, for a short time. From October 1910 regular weekly services were held by lay readers in the Yeronga Hall with Communion services held monthly by priests from various parishes. In 1910 a parcel of land in Kadumba Street was donated by E.J. Bennett as a site for a permanent church; this was later returned to the donor when a more suitable site was selected. In May 1915 the parish came under the aegis of St Andrew's, South Brisbane. W. Worley became the Stipendiary Catechist and a parochial council was formed.

In June and July 1916, Rev Cameron Hay and the parochial council met with the intention of planning a permanent church building. A sketch plan was submitted and the churches of Indooroopilly and Goulburn, NSW were studied. Nothing more definite was done until January 1917 when the rector of South Brisbane announced that it had been agreed to form a Yeronga Parochial District. The district would include Moorooka, Salisbury, Sunnybank, Upper Mt Gravatt as well as Yeronga and Rev A. Higgins was appointed as vicar.

After consideration of several sites, land in Killarney Street was selected as the most suitable site for the church, being the most centrally placed. In September 1917, the purchase of land was finalised and the vicar bought the

balance of the land facing Cork and Dublin Streets and erected a vicarage at his own expense during the 1920s.

In May 1918 a meeting was held to further the Church Building Fund. The meeting was attended by the Archbishop who applauded the congregation's decision to build the church as a memorial to those who had lost their lives in World War One. By 1919 the building fund had a credit balance of £200 after the costs of clearing and fencing the site and the (now complete) vicarage. Donations were offered for the church, including a Lectern Bible and brass Altar Bookrest. Memorial Gates at the Park Road end of Honour Avenue were dedicated by the new vicar, Rev A.W. Gilbert on 25 April, 1921.

Socials and concerts continued to add to the building fund and on 6 October 1922 plans for a brick church, designed by the architect, Alan H. Young, were approved. The tender of builder, Mr Stringer for £1567 was accepted. Plans were made for a suitable tablet carrying the names of all those from the suburb killed in the war and it was decided that the foundation stone should record that the church was a memorial church.

The Archbishop of Brisbane, the most Reverend Gerald Sharp laid the foundation stone on Saturday 25 November 1922, and the church was then dedicated by the Archbishop on the 6 May 1923.

On Easter day in 1934, the rector reported that the church bell had fallen as he rang it. He asked for donations and subsequently a new bronze bell was obtained from Messrs Paul and Gray. This new bell was dedicated on Sunday, 8 July 1934 and continues to stand in a tower erected by Mr Gaggin and his son from timber donated by Mr Clarence. The original altar in the church was donated by the contractor who built the church and the texts over the archways of chancel and sanctuary were painted by Mr Wood. Four sets of altar curtains, four sets of burses veils and the necessary altar linen were donated by the Women's Guild and Women's Auxiliary.

A timber church hall was constructed on the site between the church and the rectory in 1953. Additions were made to the front and back of the building in 1995.

Description

This church is located close to the south-east corner of the site with its longitudinal axis facing Killarney Street. The church shares the site with a church hall and rectory.

The building is slightly cruciform in plan form with an attached entry porch on the south-western end.

The external walls are of brick construction coated with a stucco render and strengthened externally with stepped buttresses. Terra cotta air vents provide for sub floor ventilation.

Gable ends which provide a termination point for the stucco render are sheeted with fibrous cement panels and vertical timber cover strips.

The bays between buttresses each contain three lancet windows containing timber framed hoppers glazed with opaque glass. Sills to windows are brickwork coated with a cement render.

The steeply pitched roof and entrance porch are sheeted with terra cotta roof tiles. The apex of each gable end is surmounted by a plain timber cross. Eaves overhangs are lined with tongue and groove boarding.

The entry porch is framed in timber with timber balustrading. The entrance doorway is a double leaf vertical joint boarding with peaked arch.

Access to the entry porch from Killarney Street on the on-site open parking area is by means of exposed aggregate steps and pathway. The metal balustrading to these steps being out of character with the timber balustrading and the building generally.

A simple two post bell tower is located at the north-eastern end of the building.

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

for the evidence it provides of the development of Yeronga and the surrounding district in the first decades of the twentieth century, particularly that of the Killarney Estate in the interwar period and as a church built as a memorial to those from the local community who died in World War I.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as part of a group of buildings which includes the Sunday School Hall (1953) and as an example of a small, rendered brick, Gothic style church built in the 1920s.

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 site of Anglican worship since 1923 and for its connection to an important part of the lives of the successive generations who have worshipped there and the lives of the hundreds of children who attended Sunday School there.

References

1. Brisbane History Group, Yeronga Heritage Tour, BHG, 1996
2. G. Hector Cleeland, *The Anglican Church at Yeronga*, 25 November 1982, Anglican Archives

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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.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised September 2020)



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