

Heritage Citation



Franciscan Friary (former) & fence

Key details

Also known as	Padua College
Addresses	At 100 Turner Road, Kedron, Queensland 4031
Type of place	Residence (group), Institutional / group housing, Private school
Period	Interwar 1919-1939, World War II 1939-1945
Style	Spanish Mission
Lot plan	L1_SP242815
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2003 Date of Citation — September 2011
Construction	Roof: Terracotta tile; Walls: Masonry - Stucco

People/associations	Archbishop Duhig (Association); Hennessy, Hennessy & Co. (Architect)
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Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (F) Technical; (G) Social; (H) Historical association
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The former Franciscan Friary was built between 1930 and 1941 as the Franciscan Friars took responsibility for the Catholic parish in Kedron. The first section of the friary designed by Hennessy, Hennessy & Co. was opened in June 1930 by Archbishop Duhig. A fine example of a substantial Spanish Mission style building, the former friary is now the administrative hub of Padua College.

History

The Kedron Catholic congregation was formed under the patronage of Saint Terese of Lisieux (The Little Flower) in 1923 as part of the Woolloowin parish. The Kedron parish built their 'Little Flower' church twice. Parishioners first attended mass at the Holy Cross church in Woolloowin, then built their first timber church, designed by Cavanagh and Cavanagh in late 1923. Within months it was destroyed by a cyclone and a replacement Romanesque brick church was constructed and opened in 1924. The consolidation and strength of the parish continued with construction of a presbytery for the parish priest in 1926.

In 1929 Archbishop Duhig invited the Franciscan Friars to take responsibility for the parish. Their first priority was to provide a Catholic education for the children of the parish. The foundation stone of St Anthony's school was laid in 1929 and the presbytery which the Franciscan Fathers had been occupying, was passed onto the Missionary Sisters of St Francis who were to run the adjacent St Anthony's School. Once the school was established, the friars commissioned plans for the friary.

The architectural firm of Hennessy, Hennessy and Company, who designed many buildings for the Catholic Church, drew up plans for a Spanish Mission style monastery. This style was particularly favoured by the Franciscan Friars according to the Architecture and Building Journal of Queensland, as the Order was started by Saint Francis of Assisi and took the architectural style "through the Umbrian Valley and through Spain as well as Ireland and Europe generally." The Franciscans had established "many glorious shrines, churches and monasteries throughout America" and the Friary at Kedron was seen as the beginning of the style's adoption in Queensland. The new Spanish Mission style was "particularly suited to tropical and semi-tropical countries like Queensland, and call[ed] for the introduction of a large amount of colour both internally and externally, and the layout of the grounds with beautiful shrines, flowers and shrubs, fountains and statues." (A&B Journal 10 February 1930, p.27)

Mr S. S. Carrick won the contract of £12,000 and construction began in 1930. The first section, in keeping with the rest of the building was of two storeys. The ground floor contained a reception, community and dining rooms while the upper floor, accessed by a large stairway, contained bedrooms. "Cool balconies and verandas" surrounding the whole building were part of the design giving the rooms good amounts of light and ventilation. The Friary, erected on one of the most elevated positions in Kedron, was opened on 30 June 1930 by Archbishop Duhig. As the impacts of the 'Great Depression' were beginning to be felt, Archbishop Duhig used

the occasion to launch a scathing attack on landlords and employers who put people out of work and evicted families without a breadwinner when they were not responsible for the economic conditions. Construction work on the friary continued over a period of years until it was completed circa 1941. During World War Two the Friary housed most of the displaced Catholic clergy from the Pacific.

In 1956, when St Anthony's school could no longer cater for the large numbers of boys attending, the Friars established a boys' school. As the first school was named for the Franciscan Friar Saint Anthony of Padua, the new boys school was named Padua College, for the university city of northern Italy where St Anthony died. The school started with two lay teachers and 89 boys in years 4, 5 and 6. The Friars began teaching there in 1957 and currently, in 2011, there are some 1,000 boys enrolled at Padua College. In 1997 the Franciscan Friars moved to new accommodation in Adele Street, Kedron and the former friary was renovated. Since then it has been used as the administration centre of the college.

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 Franciscan Friary built to serve the growing Catholic community in the area in the early twentieth century reflecting the growing suburban development of that part of Brisbane.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage

as a substantial Spanish Mission friary designed and built from 1930, it is a rare example of this style that is not a church or domestic dwelling.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as a substantial friary building in the Spanish Mission style featuring rendered concrete, terracotta tiles, arched verandahs and colourful gable detailing.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as an attractive building with rhythmic arches, and accomplished design in the composition of forms and detailing. The monastery is also a prominent local landmark.

Technical

CRITERION F

The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technological achievement at a particular period

as an accomplished design composing the detailing and forms of Spanish Mission design presented in a domestic-style of dwelling at an institutional scale.

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 Friary built by the Catholic Franciscan Order of Friars in 1930 and used continuously as a friary until 1997, and from then as the administration centre of Padua school established and run by the order since 1956, and their role in the work of the Catholic Church and the ongoing provision of education for boys.

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 significant example of a fine institutional Spanish Mission building by the prominent architectural firm of Hennessy, Hennessy & Co.

References

1. 'Franciscan Friary' *Architecture & Building Journal of Queensland* 10 February 1930
 2. *Brisbane Courier* (Qld:1864-1933) 10 June, 24 June, 1930 'Building and Real Estate'; 1 July 1930 'Strong Criticism'. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/> (accessed 13/9/2011)
 3. Brisbane History Group *Northern Suburbs Heritage Tour* Brisbane: Brisbane History Group, 1993
 4. Padua College website. http://www.padua.qld.edu.au/about_us/about_padua (accessed 14/9/2011)
 5. Queensland Certificates of Title
 6. *Queensland Post Office Directories, 1894-1949*
 7. D. Teague *The History of Kedron* Brisbane: Colonial Press, 1976, p.59
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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 June 2022)



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