

Heritage Citation



St Cecilia's Catholic Church & school

Key details

Addresses	At 30 College Street, Hamilton, Queensland 4007
Type of place	Church, School, Private school
Period	World War I 1914-1918
Style	Carpenter Gothic
Lot plan	L376_RP33619; L346_RP33619; L345_RP33619; L343_RP33619; L342_RP33619; L341_RP33619; L340_RP33619; L339_RP33619; L380_RP33619; L379_RP33619; L378_RP33619; L377_RP33619; L344_RP33619; L347_RP33619
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2005 Date of Citation — September 2013
Construction	Walls: Timber

People/associations D. W. Tipler - Church (Builder);
Thomas Ramsay Hall - Church (Architect)

Criterion for listing (A) Historical; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social; (H) Historical association

This Catholic precinct, which contains a 1914 church, a 1917 Catholic School and a mission house (on a neighbouring site), reflects the importance attached to religious observance and religious education by the Catholic community in the early twentieth century. The church was designed by notable architect Thomas Ramsay Hall and is a fine example of the Federation Carpenter Gothic style of architecture. Its construction in 1914 reflects the early growth of the Catholic Church in Queensland, and the population growth in Hamilton area in the federation era.

History

St Cecelia's Catholic Precinct was established in 1913. It includes a church, and a purpose built school.

The property on which the church stands was purchased by the Catholic Church in January 1913 at a cost of £1450. Local Catholic residents had petitioned for the establishment of a new church in the area. Population growth in Hamilton, spurred by the opening in 1899 of the new tram-line to the city, had created and increased demand for places of worship. The property that was eventually selected already contained a large house which was retained. A new church was constructed and opened in April 1914. This was designed by architect Thomas Ramsay Hall and built by D. W. Tipler at cost of £1550.

Hall was the son of John Hall and youngest brother of Francis Hall of Hall and Dods Architects, and one of the most successful Brisbane architects of the early twentieth century. Hall worked at Hall and Dods between 1903 and 1907, but soon had his own successful practice. He later went into partnership with George G. Prentice. Other significant buildings designed by Hall include: the Sandgate Town Hall (1911), Brisbane City Hall, (1925-30), and the Tattersall's club (1926).

The first minister at the new church was Father John Gowen. The pre-existing house, originally named Huron served for a few years as Gowen's presbytery until a new one was constructed and opened in 1917. By then Huron had been taken over by the Sisters of Mercy for use as a convent. Currently, the house is in use by the Divine Word Mission.

The attractive Parish School adjacent to the church was opened in January 1917. The current use of the school is not known. A bell tower exists on the College Road side of the property.

A brick addition to the church porch was constructed in 1956. Other additions included a toilet block in 1970. At the present time, the church continues to serve the local Catholic community as a focus of religious worship.

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 response to requests from the growing Catholic population in the area in the early twentieth century when Hamilton underwent a population boom.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as an architect designed, Federation Carpenter Gothic timber church which is part of a larger church precinct.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a large church precinct consisting of attractive timber buildings, well kept grounds, and large trees with considerable visual appeal.

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 church precinct that has served the local Catholic community for more than 85 years and has been

significant in the lives of many residents across several generations.

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 church designed by noted Brisbane architect Thomas Ramsay Hall.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plans with Contours
 2. O'Leary, Rev J. 1914, *A Catholic Miscellany: Containing Items of Interest to Queenslanders, Irishmen and Irish Australians*, J. O'Leary, St James' Presbytery, Coorparoo
 3. O'Leary, Rev J. 1919, *Catholic Progress: Archdiocese of Brisbane 1912-1919*, J. O'Leary, St James' Presbytery, Coorparoo
 4. 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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