

Heritage Citation



St Michael and All Angels Church

Key details

Addresses	At 655 Brunswick Street, New Farm, Queensland 4005
Type of place	Church, Residence (singular), Columbarium
Period	Postwar 1945-1960
Style	Brisbane Regional
Lot plan	L10_RP8627; L9_RP8627; L8_RP8627; L7_RP8627
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — June 2010
Construction	Walls: Face brick
People/associations	A.H. Conrad and T.B.F Gargett (Architect)

St Michael and All Angels Church was built in 1958-59. A prominent Brisbane architectural firm, Conrad and Gargett, designed the brick church, which was conceived as a memorial church to those who had died in the two world wars. It is well designed for the Queensland climate and also for the church's location on a busy street. It has many links to the past, including the former New Farm fire bell and its own columbarium. The Anglican parish has had a presence on this site for over 100 years.

History

Anglicans have been gathering and worshipping on this site in Brunswick Street, New Farm since 1891.

Originally, they met in a timber building, designed by J H Buckeridge to be a church, a hall and a Sunday school. This building was only ever meant to provide a temporary place of worship, and in 1921 the congregation of St Michael and All Angels looked at plans for a masonry church. An appeal was launched in 1923 to raise finance for the construction of the church but it did not proceed.

Before a new church could be built, the old timber church had to be moved from the site. In 1948, the congregation purchased an adjoining lot with frontage to Balfour Street for £1,200. The site contained an old house, which was sold and removed. In July 1954 the 75 tonne timber church was manoeuvred 150 feet to this new site via a ramp. A brick hall was built underneath. The top floor was later leased to the Queensland Mental Health Association and re-named "Friendship House".

The new church was conceived as a war memorial church, in memory of those who had lost their lives in two world wars. The Archbishop laid the foundation stone on the Feast of St Michael and All Angels on 29 September 1957, and it was dedicated by Archbishop Halse on Palm Sunday, 22 March 1959. On Palm Sunday 68 years earlier, the Anglican Archbishop had dedicated the Parish's timber church.

The Brisbane Diocese contracted the architectural firm, Conrad and Gargett to prepare plans for the new church. Established in 1939, though with links to architectural firms operating in the 19th century, Conrad and Gargett was one of Queensland's largest architectural firms at that time. They have designed significant Brisbane landmarks such as the Princess Alexandra Hospital, and the Sheraton Hotel. In 1959, Thomas Gargett was President of the Queensland Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

Conrad and Gargett's design for St Michael and All Angels Church pays heed to the Queensland climate and its location on a busy road. Both sides of the church have french doors in the shape of arched windows that open onto wide verandahs. High windows with generous over-hang provide natural light and capture the prevailing breezes. Visitors to the church have commented on its excellent acoustics and the lack of noise pollution from traffic on Brunswick Street. The 300-seat church cost £30,000, including furnishings.

One of the features of St Michael and All Angels Church is the 54 foot carillon. It contains the original New Farm fire bell, which dates from the days of hand-cart fire-fighting. The Church Chronicle states that "after many years of silence it will now be used to call the faithful to the worship of God and perhaps alarm the others of the dangers of neglect of that worship". Another link to the past is the surrounds of the Aumbry in the Sanctuary,

which incorporates pieces of marble from the Reredos of St Paul's Cathedral, London. The marble was claimed when St Paul's was damaged by bombs in the Battle of Britain. The altar is also of marble and was donated in memory of Rev. Cecil Brook, church Rector from 1945-1955.

In keeping with the memorial purpose of the church, a columbarium has been built at the rear of the church. This is a wall with recesses to receive the ashes of the dead. A large poinciana tree, which was probably planted soon after the church was built, provides a visual link between the church and the rectory.

The current rectory was built in 1958 and dedicated by Archdeacon F. Knight on 17 August 1958. It replaced an old rectory that was built in 1909 and partially destroyed by fire in May 1958. It has been modified several times since 1958 and is no longer used as a rectory, but as offices for the New Farm Home Assist-Secure Service.

Description

This mid-twentieth century church consists of a simple, gabled main building of traditional plan form with transepts balanced by the vertical form of a carrillon. Both structures are orange facebrick with rendered trims. The church has a steel portal frame with raked ceiling and high-level windows provide light to the nave. A port-cochere between the church and belltower covers an entry porch off a semi-circular driveway. The front and back walls are slightly concave, and the side walls contain doors opening onto arcaded verandahs.

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 increasing size and wealth of the Anglican parish in the postwar period and the continued presence of the Anglican community in New Farm.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a purpose built war memorial church with a columbarium.

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 church which has served the Anglican community of New Farm since 1959. It is situated on a site associated with this parish since 1891 when the first church (now the hall) was built.

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 brick church with detached bell tower designed by prominent Brisbane architects, Conrad and Gargett.

Supporting images



L. & D. Keen Pty. Ltd. (photographers) for the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (Queensland Chapter), 'St. Michael and All Angels' Anglican Church in New Farm, Queensland', c.1955-1975, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland

The church is located at 655 Brunswick Street, New Farm. The architects were Conrad & Gargett.
(Description supplied with photograph)

References

1. Brisbane City Council Minutes, 4 February 1958
2. Brisbane City Council, Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Plan no. 161, 1937
3. *The Church Chronicle*, November 1909, p.354; December 1909, p.378; February 1910, p.426; November 1957, p.332; April 1959, p.117
4. Conrad and Gargett Pty Ltd, *Conrad and Gargett 1890-1990*, Brisbane, 199?

5. *The Courier Mail*, 23 March 1959, p.8
 6. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
 7. Fletcher, Sir Banister, *A History of Architecture*, 17th edition, Athlone Press, 1961
 8. *St Michael and All Angels New Farm, Parish Messenger*, April/May 1959
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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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