

Heritage Citation



Guardian Angels Catholic Church and School Hall

Key details

Addresses	At 198 Bay Terrace, Wynnum, Queensland 4178
Type of place	Church
Period	Federation 1890-1914
Style	Carpenter Gothic
Lot plan	L86_RP33003; L155_RP33003; L2_RP98018; L1_RP98018; L84_RP33003; L156_RP33003; L157_RP33003; L4_RP98018; L153_RP33003; L152_RP33003; L3_RP98018; L89_RP33003; L88_RP33003; L87_RP33003; L154_RP33003; L85_RP33003
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — September 2010

Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
People/associations	Eaton and Bates - Church (Architect); Francis (Frank) Leo Cullen - Church (1940 extensions) (Architect); Richard Gailey - Hall (Architect)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social

Guardian Angels Catholic Church opened in November 1905 and is one of the first churches to be built in Wynnum. It was designed by architects Eaton and Bates and is an excellent example of a Federation Carpenter Gothic timber church. A parish school designed by the prominent architect Richard Gailey was built on the church grounds in 1914 and continues to serve the local community as a school hall.

History

Europeans first arrived at what became the seaside suburb of Wynnum in the mid-19th Century, with land sales in the 1860s. The opening of the railway to Cleveland in 1889 boosted Wynnum's growth, and many successful businessmen and workers bought or built homes in the area to enjoy the fresh sea air and beautiful views. Wynnum's population grew significantly during the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. In 1891, the population of Wynnum stood at just 683. By 1921, the population was 8,357. As the population increased, churches – Anglican, Methodist and Catholic – were established to serve the community.

Before Guardian Angels Church was built, mass was celebrated in the Wynnum Town Hall by Fathers Dorrigan and O'Leary, who travelled from South Brisbane. From 1904, Father Thomas Enright oversaw the Wynnum area under the umbrella of the Logan and Albert Parish. Under his guidance, a committee was established to procure a site and funds for a church. The site of the future church, school and presbytery was bought by Archbishop Dunne and donated to the parish. The committee then turned its attention to raising funds to construct the new church.

In early April 1905, the foundation stone of the new church was laid. The church was designed by architects Eaton and Bates in the 'Gothic style.' They had earlier commissions from the Catholic Church in Queensland, including the church in Barcaldine (1898), and additions to St Joseph's Cathedral, Rockhampton (1899). The church was constructed by Mr J.P. Little. The site was described in *The Brisbane Courier* of the time as 'a magnificent one on an eminence overlooking Moreton Bay'. The church was one of the first buildings to be erected on this ridge, and much of the surrounding area remained bushland during the 1910s.

Archbishop Dunne officially opened the new church on 26 November 1905. The church's position at South Wynnum made it ideally situated to serve the people of Manly, Wynnum and the surrounding district. An 'immense congregation' was present at the opening ceremony, including some who had travelled to the opening from Brisbane by train. The church could accommodate 400 people and was built of Queensland hardwood, lined with pine. The interior was painted in 'delicate shades of cream and pale green.' Gifts from parishioners included a stained-glass window above the altar, a holy water font and a bookstand. Archbishop Dunne congratulated the community on opening their church almost free of debt, thanks to their donations.

In 1913, when Wynnum was formally made a parish, Father Enright was appointed parish priest. He served in this role until he died in 1919. During this period, a convent school, designed by Richard Gailey, was opened in

the church grounds in 1914. The foundation stone of the building was laid by Archbishop Duhig on 3 May 1914, and he returned for the official opening on 4 October 1914. By the end of that year, 109 children were enrolled in the school.

Several school buildings were added to the site over time. In 1940, improvements were made to the church, presbytery, convent and school. Extensions to the church included a sanctuary and two sacristies designed by Brisbane architect F.L. Cullen. The original school building now serves as a hall, while the former presbytery (built in 1914), was replaced by a modern presbytery and parish centre in the late 1980s.

Description

The Guardian Angels Catholic Church and school hall are a group of religious and educational buildings in the Carpenter Gothic style, built during the Federation period. Their materials, form, openings and scale reflect their use as religious and educational buildings within a parish and school precinct.

Church

The building's key features are its substantial scale, form and detailing. It is a large, single-storey timber-framed structure in a rectangular nave with transepts and apse and two gable porticos. It is clad in chamferboards and supported on concrete piers enclosed by vertical timber-slatted screens, with a masonry base along the front of the building. It features a steeply pitched gable roof clad in corrugated sheet metal with a timber frame, punctuated along the main slopes by small triangular louvred dormer vents. The front elevation presents a highly symmetrical, imposing gable end, surmounted by a prominent Celtic cross at its apex.

The front elevation and primary gable peaks display timber quatrefoil fretwork and curved timber brackets supporting the deep overhanging eaves. The primary façade contains a large, centrally positioned circular rose window with radiating wheel-patterned glazing and semi-circular hood mould, flanked by two small lancet windows. A smaller projecting porch with a flatter-pitched gable roof sits at the base of the front elevation, containing a triplet bank of narrow lancet windows with diamond-patterned leadlight glass with a crucifix in the middle window, and a central parish noticeboard. This porch is surmounted by a prominent white cross at its apex. Along the elevations of the nave, several projecting gables are clad in chamferboard and decorated with vertical timber battens supported on a shaped timber frame. The eastern elevation ends in an apse, with the hipped roof terminating in two projecting gables on either side, forming transepts. The southern transept gable end is topped by an open timber bellcote housing a bell under its small gabled roof.

Entry to the building is provided via multiple sets of concrete and timber steps. The front elevation features low concrete stairs flanking the central porch, which has double timber doors. The southern elevation features a steeply pitched gabled portico, consisting of a timber frame of posts leading to a single timber door in the adjacent projecting gable. The gable is infilled with decorative panels. Entry to the portico is via a timber staircase or a concrete ramp. The windows throughout are predominantly lancet-shaped with hopper openings with multi-paned or diamond leadlight glazing, set either in a triplet or individually on simple timber sills.

School hall

The building's key features are its scale, form and detailing. Elevated prominently on a sloping lot, it is a high-set timber-framed structure on stumps, with an elongated rectangular plan. The building elevation features a wraparound verandah. The northern part of the verandah is open and supported by posts, while the southern element has been infilled. The building has a steeply pitched gable roof, and a low-pitched stepped verandah

roof. The verandah roof features a projecting gable at the front elevation, with timber pointed trefoil arch cut-outs surmounted by a cross. All roofs are constructed of timber-framed corrugated sheet metal. The lower sub-floor undercroft level is partially enclosed with vertical timber slatted screens.

The building's external walls are clad in weatherboards with some exposed framing above verandah windows. The prominent gable end features decorative timber pointed trefoil arch cut-outs forming an open screen pattern at the peak. On the front elevation, a group of three tall, narrow Gothic-style windows is set, again with the trefoil arch motif. On the northern and southern elevations, a group of five Gothic-style clerestory windows runs directly beneath the main eaves of the gable roof and above the verandah roof. Each window is divided into multiple narrow vertical lights, and each light features a timber pointed trefoil arch form.

Entry to the building is via a flight of external timber stairs with timber balustrade, leading to an open verandah secured by a timber balustrade. Access to the hall is gained through double timber doors with trefoil motif frames. Timber stairs with a balustrade provide access to the verandah from the northern elevation. Further window configurations on the main level feature large multi-light casement windows arranged in double or triple sets with coloured glass. Some include transom windows. A flat-roofed extension is attached to the western end of the timber structure.

The buildings are integrated into the parish and school landscape. The church is set next to driveways, car parking spaces, and a school playground area. A contemporary steel-framed, open-sided portico awning has been added along the southeastern side to provide a covered passenger drop-off zone. The immediate grounds consist of mature eucalypt trees, a low concrete retaining wall bearing the parish name, and a stone grotto containing a statue of the Virgin Mary, nestled into a hedge on the front lawn left of the entry.

The hall is set back from Chestnut Street, behind a substantial red-brick retaining wall topped with a timber paling fence, to accommodate the sloping terrain of the school grounds. The lower playground and driveway precinct incorporates modern educational structures, including large blue fabric shade sails over outdoor areas, a covered metal-framed parking or play shelter, and a black metal perimeter security fence.

Significant features

Features of cultural heritage significance include:

- **Form:** A low-set, single-storey church building and a high-set, single-storey school hall, both with steeply pitched gable roofs in the Carpenter Gothic style. The church features an apse with a faceted hip roof. The hall features a partially open verandah with timber posts and is raised on timber stumps.
- **Structure:**
 - **Roof:** Timber-framed corrugated sheet metal
 - **Walls:** Chamferboards and weatherboards
 - **Verandahs:** Verandah featuring timber floor and posts
 - **Doors and windows:** Original location, size, arrangement, joinery and material of all original doors, windows and openings, including lancet windows, a large, centrally positioned circular rose window with radiating wheel-patterned glazing, casement windows and timber doors.
- **Setting:** Orientation and relationship between the buildings. Views to and from the building from Bay Terrace, Pine Street and Chestnut Street.
- **Ancillary features:** Location and materials of all original crosses. Location and materials of bellcote housing a bell.

Non-significant features

Non-significant features include:

- Primary school
- Classrooms constructed post-1960
- Presbytery

- Parish centre
 - Columbarium.
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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 one of the first churches to be built to serve the needs of the growing population of Wynnum at the turn of the 19th century.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as an excellent and relatively intact example of a Federation Carpenter Gothic timber church.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

for the church's fine proportions and detailing which make the building a striking presence in Bay Terrace.

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 centre of worship and education for the Catholic community of the Wynnum area since the early 20th century.

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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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