

INTERIM HERITAGE PLACES REGISTER

CITATION

Name of Place: ALL SAINTS CHURCH, AINSLIE

LOCATION OF PLACE: Cowper Street, Ainslie, ACT

Section and Block Suburb: Block 15, Section 24, Ainslie

Area bounded by: The Church of All Saints and the curtilage Block 15, Section 24, Ainslie

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place are:

- The facades, excluding the windows in the north and south facades
 - The east window and the north and south transept windows and chapel No.2 window
 - The Tower and the bell
 - The transepts
 - The gargoyles, gutters and fleur de lys
 - The bays
 - The angel arch including column, capitals, angels and other carvings
 - The columns with bases, pillars, capitals and arches
 - The roof trusses
 - The organ, altar, pulpit and font.
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The church is highly significant as a former mortuary railway station, moved from its site at the Sydney Necropolis at Rookwood in Sydney to Ainslie, ACT, and sympathetically modified to make it fit for use as a parish church.

The original building and the present church are excellent examples of the Gothic Revival style of architecture relating to the thirteenth century Florentian style. The church represents a significant work by NSW Colonial Architect James Barnet.

The church has direct and explicit associations with the early Sydney Necropolis at Rookwood and its previous use is suitably memorialised in its current form. It has associations with the developing religious life of the national capital.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

In accordance with s.54(1) of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991, the following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of this place. These requirements are prepared to implement the following conservation policy for the place:

- that the Gothic Revival characteristics and details of the church be conserved and enhanced.
- that the precinctual qualities of the church on its corner site be conserved and enhanced, such that the church building is seen as pre-eminent and not comprised within its precinct.

- that any changes to the structure of the church should be in sympathy with and enhance the Gothic Revival style of the building.
- That additions or alterations to other buildings, or new buildings on the site including the columbarium and landscape design should not compromise the pre-eminence of the church on its site. Design of and materials used in such works should be in sympathy with the church and its materials.

Any action relating to these requirements is development for the purposes of the Act and will require approval prior to undertaking the activity. To undertake development without such approval may be an offence.

1. Requirements Relating to the Building

- 1.1
- 1.2

2. Requirements Relating to the Setting

- 2.1

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

In assessing this place for the interim Heritage Places Register, the Council recommends that the following actions and activities should be undertaken which will enhance the heritage values of the place. They are made as recommendations and have no legal effect.

- 1. The conservation works and long-term planning strategies for the precinct and the church should be adopted which are recommended in the Conservation Management Policy prepared by Freeman Collett & Partners Pty Ltd with John Goldsmith Architect as may be amended from time to time with the agreement of the All Saints Parish Council and the ACT Heritage Council.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

- 1. date Draft citation considered by ACT Heritage Council at Meeting (number)
- 2. date Draft citation released for public comment
- 3. date Revised citation for ACT Heritage Council Meeting (number)
- 4. date Gazetted in an interim Heritage Places Register
- 5. On the Register of the National Estate
- . 15/10/79 Classified by the National Trust of Australia (ACT)

Attachment A

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:**
- 2. STATUS OF PLACE AT NOMINATION DATE:**
- 3. BACKGROUND:**

The Anglican parish of All Saints came into being on 1 May, 1955, the Parish of North Canberra. It was centred on the parish hall which had been erected on Block 15, Section 24 in Cowper Street, Ainslie. The Rectory was at 10 Angas Street, Ainslie, a government house given to the church for the use of the Diocesan Commissioner in 1948 until a purpose built rectory was erected next to the church.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE

The Church of All Saints is a converted mortuary railway station moved from its original location at Rookwood Necropolis in Sydney and modified and re-erected as a church in Ainslie in the national capital. It is built of coursed sandstone from the Pyrmont, Sydney quarries. It is a Gothic Revival building in the 13th century Florentian Gothic style. It was designed by the Colonial Architect, James Barnet and erected originally in 1868. The west end and main entrance is reconstructed from stonework from the original building. The tower from the original building has been relocated from the left to the right side. The space through which the train passed was filled with glass windows which were modified in 1990.

The north facade has bays which originally were open to allow people to walk out of the station. They have been enclosed with timber windows. The original north transept was built between bays 6 and 7; it now serves as the north vestry.

The east end in the original building had an apsidal closure. This was removed when the station was changed from a terminus to a through platform, the apse being re-erected at station no. 3. This was recovered and built to enclose the east end of the church and form the sanctuary.

The south facade has also been enclosed with timber windows, the south transept serving as the south vestry.

The nave and chancel are lined with rather squat columns with a cup or bowl-shaped capital. The columns are composite in style being more Doric than Corinthian. There are seven on either side. The arches spanning the spaces between the columns are Gothic in design. The sanctuary is divided from the chancel by the angel arch which formerly was at the northern, outer end of the station. The spaces between the pillars in the chancel have been enclosed to form two side chapels. The arches, like much in the building have symbolic meaning, seven being the perfect number.

The roof of the station was destroyed by a bush fire. The main trusses appear to have been a combination of arch brace and collar beam design. In Canberra the reconstructed roof is of simple and basic hammer beam trusses. Over them Tasmanian oak boards are laid and covered with fibre cement shingles.

The base of the tower to the right of the entrance was originally used as the vergers' vestry. However when a new gallery was built in 1990 for a pipe organ the space was used for a stairwell to give access to the gallery.

The choir vestry occupies the space to the left of the main entrance.

The altar consists of stones from the railway platform topped by a slab [mensa] from Bishopthorpe in Goulburn. The font is the chimney cap from the apse of Rookwood no. 3 station. The pulpit is a corner of the semi-octagonal apse.

The gallery was designed by Philip Cox, Richardson, Taylor and Partners to accommodate a nineteenth century pipe organ obtained from Harrow in England, the west doors and windows being altered for the purpose.

The church contains at the east end a window from a church in Sheffield in England obtained as a gift through Lady de L'Isle wife of the then Governor General in 1963. It was converted to make the east window and two side windows for the north and south transepts. Another window from Gloucestershire is in the second chapel.

The church has many exquisite carvings by sculptors Thomas Duckett and Henry Apperley. They are on the capitals of the columns and gargoyles which form gutter outlets for the moulded stone gutters. They form corbels on the windows and walls. Cherubs support the roof trusses. The two angels are different. The angel on the left holds a scroll and her eyes are closed, symbolising death. The angel on the right carries a trumpet, her eyes are open and her head inclined as if awaiting a signal to herald the resurrection.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

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that the precinctual qualities of the church on its corner site be conserved and enhanced, such that the church building is seen as pre-eminent and not compromised within its precinct.

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MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The conservation works and long-term planning strategies for the precinct and the church should be adopted which are recommended in the Conservation Management Policy prepared by Freeman Collett & Partners Pty Ltd with John Goldsmith Architect as may be amended from time to time with the agreement of the All Saints Parish Council and the ACT Heritage Council.

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4. **RELEVANT PRINCIPAL NATIONAL HISTORIC THEMES:**
 5. **ANALYSIS AGAINST THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE 2 OF THE LAND (PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT) ACT 1991**

Under Section 56 the criteria for the assessment of the heritage significance of places are:

- (i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure, or representing a new achievement of its time;
- (ii): a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group;
- (iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest;
- (iv): a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;
- (v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type;
- (vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class;
- (vii): a place which has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history;
- (viii) a place which represents the evolution of a natural landscape, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes;
- (ix) a place which is a significant habitat or locality for the life cycle of native species; for rare, endangered or uncommon species; for species at the limits of their natural range; or for district occurrences of species;
- (x) a place which exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements; or
- (xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site.

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6. **REFERENCES:**

- 7.
- 8. Author Title date publication
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
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